E/2001/27
E/CN.6/2001/14

United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the forty-fifth session (6-16 March and 9-11 May 2001)

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 2001
Supplement No. 7 (E/2001/27-E/CN.6/2001/14)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2001
Supplement No. 7 (E/2001/27-E/CN.6/2001/14)

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the forty-fifth session
(6-16 March and 9-11 May 2001)

United Nations • New York, 2001

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ISSN 0252-0117

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
	A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council	1
	I. The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women	1
	II. Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan	2
	III. Proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006	6
	IV. Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on thematic issues	8
	B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	22
	Resolution 45/1. Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts	22
	Resolution 45/2. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system	23
	Resolution 45/3. Proposed System-wide Medium-term Plan for the Advancement of Women, 2002-2005	25
	Decision 45/101. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	28
	Decision 45/102. Enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women	28
	Decision 45/103. Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women	28
	Decision 45/104. Resumed session of the Commission on the Status of Women	28
	Decision 45/105. Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003	29
	Decision 45/106. Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3	29
II.	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	30
III.	Thematic issues	48
	A. Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)	49

B. Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance 50

IV. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions 52

V. Communications concerning the status of women 53

VI. Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission 57

VII. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session 58

VIII. Organization of the session 59

A. Opening and duration of the session 59

B. Attendance 59

C. Election of officers 59

D. Agenda and organization of work 59

E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women 60

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations 60

Annexes

I. Summary submitted by the Moderator of the panel discussion on women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (Ellen Margrethe Loej) (agenda item 4 (a)) 61

II. Summary submitted by the Moderator of the panel discussion on gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Ibra Deguène Ka) (agenda item 4 (b)) 64

III. Summary of comments by some Member States on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003 67

IV. Comments by some Member States of the Commission on the Status of Women on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005 68

V. Attendance 70

VI. List of documents before the Commission at its forty-fifth session 74

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation section III.A concerning the situation of Palestinian women and assistance provided by organizations of the United Nations system, contained in the report of the Secretary-General[1] on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action,[3]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[4] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[5]

Recalling also its resolution 2000/23 of 28 July 2000 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[6] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Stressing the need for compliance with the existing Israeli-Palestinian agreements concluded within the context of the Middle East peace process and the need to resume peace negotiations, as soon as possible, in order to reach a final settlement,

Concerned about the deterioration of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestinian women and their families, resulting from the frequent closures and isolation of the occupied territory,

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[1] E/CN.6/2001/2.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[5] See General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

Expressing its condemnation of acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the entire international community, to exert all the necessary efforts towards ensuring the immediate resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvements in the difficult situation on the ground and living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[7] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention of 1907[8] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[9] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Urges* Member States, financial organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women, especially during the transitional period;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan*

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[11] the Convention

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[7] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[8] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[10] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[11] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[12] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[13] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[14] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[15] and the optional protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict[16] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[17] the Beijing Declaration[18] and Platform for Action,[19] the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[20] accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[21] and other instruments of human rights and international law,

Recalling that Afghanistan is party to the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide,[22] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[11] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[11] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,[23] and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Welcoming the substantive report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, and the conclusions contained therein, including the need to monitor and evaluate the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls who reside in all areas of Afghanistan,[24]

Noting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women,[25] and deploring the "official, widespread and systematic violation of the human rights of women in Taliban controlled areas" as found in the report,

Deploring the deteriorating economic, social and cultural conditions of women and girls in all areas of Afghanistan, in particular in areas under the control of the Taliban, as documented by the continued and substantiated reports of grave violations to the security of the person and integrity as well as the human rights of women and girls, including discrimination in terms of access to health care, to levels

---

[12] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.
[13] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
[14] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[15] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
[16] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex I.
[17] Ibid., annex II.
[18] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[19] Ibid., annex II.
[20] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.
[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[22] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III).
[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[24] E/CN.6/2001/2/Add.1.
[25] E/CN.4/2000/68/Add.4.

and types of education, to employment outside the home, to freedom of movement and to freedom of association,

Also deploring the July 2000 edict of the Taliban barring Afghan women from working in foreign organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as the August 2000 statute on the activities of the United Nations in Afghanistan,

Welcoming the fourth report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, entitled "Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan",[26] in particular his special focus on violations of the human rights of women and girls, especially in territories under the control of the Taliban,

Deeply concerned about the detrimental impact of these harmful conditions on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care, and the detrimental effect of the restrictions to women's and girls' education and women's employment on the functions of Afghan society and the reconstruction and development of the country,

Expressing its appreciation for the international community's support of and solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan, being supportive of the women of Afghanistan who protest against violations of their human rights, and encouraging women and men worldwide to continue efforts to draw attention to their situation and to promote the immediate restoration of their ability to enjoy their human rights,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continuing grave violations of the human rights of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, in all areas of Afghanistan, particularly in areas under the control of the Taliban;

2. *Also condemns* the continued restrictions on women's access to health care and the systematic violation of the human rights of women in Afghanistan, including the restrictions on access to education and employment outside the home, on freedom of movement and on freedom from intimidation, harassment and violence, which have a serious detrimental effect on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care;

3. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect international humanitarian law;

4. *Urges* all the Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to bring to an end, without delay, all human rights violations against women and girls, and to take urgent measures to ensure:

(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and those that impede the realization of all their human rights;

(b) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

[26] A/55/346.

(c) Respect for the equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments of the Afghan society, as well as through the United Nations system and human rights and humanitarian organizations operating within Afghanistan;

(d) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

(e) Respect for the right of women and girls to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women and girls are brought to justice;

(f) Respect for freedom of movement for women and girls;

(g) Respect for the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes, and to that end encourages such measures as the establishment of culturally sensitive programmes to sensitize Afghan officials, ministry staff and technical departments concerning international principles of human rights and gender equality;

6. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, in conformity with the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective, and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Urges* States to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan and to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of their policies and actions related to Afghanistan;

8. *Welcomes* the overall efforts of the Secretary-General to address the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, including the establishment of the positions of Gender Adviser and Human Rights Adviser in the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator for Afghanistan, in order to ensure more effective consideration and implementation of human rights and gender concerns in all United Nations programmes within Afghanistan, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the inter-agency gender mission to Afghanistan conducted by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in November 1997;[27]

9. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations activities in Afghanistan are carried out according to the principle of non-discrimination against women and girls, and that a gender perspective and special attention to the human rights of women and girls are fully incorporated into the work of the civil affairs

[27] See gopher://gopher.un.org/00/sec/dpcsd/daw/1acwge/afghanis/afghanrep.en.

unit established within the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, including the training and selection of staff, and that efforts be made to enhance the role of women in preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping;

10. *Encourages* United Nations agencies to intensify their efforts to employ more women in their programmes in Afghanistan, particularly at the decision-making level, to ensure, inter alia, the functioning of all programmes in order to better address the needs of the female population;

11. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work;

12. *Appeals* to States and the international community to implement the recommendations of the inter-agency gender mission to Afghanistan under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and urges all, particularly countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations having influence in Afghanistan, to continue to bring pressure to bear on all armed groups to respect the human rights of women and girls in all circumstances;

13. *Demands* that all Afghan factions, in particular the Taliban, ensure the safety and protection of all United Nations and humanitarian workers in Afghanistan and allow them, regardless of gender, to carry out their work unhindered;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006*

The Economic and Social Council,

1. *Adopts* a multi-year work programme for the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[28] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[29] which will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and will be in line with the coordinated follow-up to major forthcoming United Nations conferences and summits;

2. *Decides* that the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in relation to the programme of work shall be closely related to its mandate and the relevant provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[28] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[29] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

their effective implementation through more practical and action-oriented initiatives and outcomes. For this effective implementation, the work of the Commission should take into account relevant cross-cutting issues, such as, inter alia, institutional capacity-building;

3. *Decides* that the agenda for the sessions of the Commission shall consist of the following:

(a) Election of officers;

(b) Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters;

(c) Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

(i) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

(ii) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(iii) Implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives;

(d) Communications concerning the status of women;

(e) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions;

(f) Provisional agenda for the next session of the Commission;

(g) Adoption of the report of the Commission on its present session;

4. *Decides* on the following calendar:

2002

Item 1

Eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world.

Item 2

Environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective.

2003

Item 1

Participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.

Item 2

Women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

2004

Item 1

The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality.

Item 2

Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

2005

Item 1

Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.[30]

Item 2

Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

2006

Item 1

Enhanced participation of women in development; an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and for the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work.

Item 2

Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.

Draft resolution IV
Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on thematic issues*

The Economic and Social Council,

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to the thematic issues addressed by the Commission at its forty-fifth session:

A
Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

1. Women play a vital role in the social and economic development of their countries. It is a profound concern that by the end of 2000, 36.1 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, and of those infected, 95 per cent were living in developing countries, and 16.4 million were women. The proportion of women infected with HIV is increasing and in sub-Saharan Africa women constitute 55 per cent of all

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[30] Subject to decision of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2001.

adult HIV infected, while teenage girls are infected at a rate of five to six times greater than their male counterparts.

2. Full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights, civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development — which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated — is of crucial importance in preventing further spread of HIV/AIDS. The majority of women and girls do not fully enjoy their rights, in particular to education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and social security, especially in developing countries. These inequalities begin early in life and render women and girls more vulnerable in the area of sexual and reproductive health, thus increasing their risk and vulnerability to HIV infection and their disproportionate suffering from the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

3. Poverty, negative and harmful traditional and customary practices that subordinate women in the household, community and society render women especially vulnerable to HIV/STI. Millions of women and girls lack access and/or have insufficient access to health care, medication and social support in general, including in the case of sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS.

4. The Commission on the Status of Women has taken into account the recommendations on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS as addressed in the following documents: the Beijing Platform for Action,[31] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[32] the Copenhagen Programme of Action,[33] the outcome documents of the twenty-first, twenty-third and twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly,[34] the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[35] the agreed conclusion of the Commission on the Status of Women on women and health,[36] and Commission resolution 44/2.

5. The Commission recalls the internationally agreed targets as contained in the documents referred to in paragraph 4, and suggests that the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS should fully integrate a gender perspective, including in any new targets, and focus on actions needed to achieve existing targets.

6. The Commission welcomes the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases, in particular its gender dimension, adopted by the Organization of African Unity at its Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, held at Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2001.

7. The Commission notes with appreciation the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in

---

[31] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[32] See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution I, annex.

[33] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

[34] See General Assembly resolutions S-21/2, annex, S-23/2, annex, S-23/3, annex and S-24/2, annex.

[35] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[36] Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/17.

their efforts to empower women through capacity development programmes, as well as programmes that provide women with access to development resources and strengthen their networks that offer care and support to women affected by HIV/AIDS.

8. The highest level of political commitment to the empowerment and advancement of women and to the prevention, research, care and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, especially HIV/AIDS, must be secured.

9. It is important to fully integrate a gender perspective in the preparatory process and in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, including, inter alia, the full integration of a gender perspective in any new targets and in actions needed to achieve internationally agreed targets that relate to women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS as contained in the documents referred to in paragraph 4 above.

10. In order to accelerate the implementation of the strategic objectives of the conferences and documents mentioned in paragraph 4 above, especially of those objectives related to women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, the Commission recommends that the following actions be taken:

Actions to be taken by Governments, the United Nations system and civil society, as appropriate

1. Empowerment of women

(a) The rapid progression of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly in the developing world, has had a devastating impact on women. The unequal power relationships between women and men, in which women often do not have the power to insist on safe and responsible sex practices, and lack of communication and understanding between women and men on women's health needs, inter alia, endanger women's health, particularly by increasing their susceptibility to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

(b) Responsible behaviour and gender equality are among the important prerequisites for its prevention;

(c) Ensure that the sexual health and reproductive rights of women of all ages as defined in paragraphs 94, 95 and 96 of the Beijing Platform for Action is seen as an essential part in efforts to promote women's empowerment, bearing in mind that women and girls are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and in this context, further promote the advancement and empowerment of women and women's full enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development and their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, in order to protect themselves from high risk and irresponsible behaviour leading to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS as well as access to health information and education, health care and health services which are critical to increasing the ability of women and young girls to protect themselves from HIV infection;

(d) Focus national and international policies towards the eradication of poverty in order to empower women to better protect themselves from the spread of the pandemic and to more effectively deal with the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS;

(e) Alleviate the social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS on women who in their roles as food suppliers and traditional caregivers are primarily affected by the negative consequences of the pandemic, such as a reduced labour force and a breakdown of social service systems;

(f) Reaffirm the equal rights of women and the girl child infected and affected by sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS to have access to health, education and social services and to be protected from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect;

(g) Also reaffirm the human rights of girls and women to equal access to education, skill training and employment opportunities as a means to reduce their vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases/HIV;

(h) Urge Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen women's economic independence and protect and promote full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow women and girls to better protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections/HIV;

(i) Address and reduce the increased HIV/AIDS risks, vulnerabilities and impact on women and girls, including in conflict situations, through gender-sensitive economic, legal and social services and programmes, including integration of HIV/AIDS prevention and care services into minimum essential health-care packages;

(j) Strengthen concrete measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse and rape, battering and trafficking in women and girls, which aggravate the conditions fostering the spread of HIV/AIDS, through, inter alia, the enactment and enforcement of laws, as well as public campaigns to combat violence against women and girls;

(k) Take steps to create an environment that promotes all human rights, compassion and support for people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, including through introducing and/or reviewing legislation with a view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions and provide the legal framework that will protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly of women and girls, and enable those who are vulnerable to have access to appropriate voluntary and confidential counselling services, and encourage efforts to reduce discrimination and stigmatization;

(l) Further develop and fully integrate a gender perspective into national regional and international HIV/AIDS programmes and strategies, taking into account, inter alia, sex and age disaggregated data and statistics, with a particular focus on gender equality;

(m) Take measures to promote and implement women's equal access to and control over economic resources, including land, property rights, the right to inheritance, regardless of their marital status, in order to reduce the vulnerability of women in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

(n) Provide women and girls, including those in marginalized groups, with equal access to quality education, literacy programmes, health care and health services, social services, skills training and employment opportunities, support capacity-building and the strengthening of women's networks and protect them from

all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect, in order to reduce their risk and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and alleviate the impact on those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

2. Prevention

(a) Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, should make efforts to place combating HIV/AIDS as a priority on the development agenda and to implement multisectoral and decentralized effective preventive strategies and programmes, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including women, young girls and infants, also taking into account the prevention of mother-to-child transmission;

(b) Governments, with the assistance of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, must adopt a long-term, timely, coherent and integrated AIDS prevention policy, with public information, life skills-based education programmes specifically tailored to the needs of women and girls adapted to their social cultural context and sensitivities and the specific needs in their life cycle;

(c) Intensify efforts to determine the best policies and programmes to prevent women and young girls from becoming infected with HIV/AIDS, taking into account that women, in particular young girls, are socially, physiologically and biologically more vulnerable than men to sexually transmitted infections;

(d) Take measures to integrate, inter alia, a family-based approach in programmes aiming at providing prevention, care and support to women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS; as well as take measures to integrate a community-based approach in policies and programmes aimed at providing prevention, care and support to women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS;

(e) Ensure equal and non-discriminatory access to accurate, comprehensive information, to prevention education on reproductive health, and to voluntary testing and counselling services and technologies within a cultural and gender-sensitive framework and with particular emphasis on adolescents and young adults;

(f) Request the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors to continue in their efforts aimed at providing complete and accurate sexual and reproductive health education for young people, within a cultural and gender-sensitive framework, while, inter alia, encouraging them to delay sexual initiation, or/and to use condoms and, in this context, urge that greater attention be given to the education of men and boys about their roles and their responsibilities in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to their partners;

(g) Promote gender equality in relationships, and provide information and resources to promote informed, responsible and safe sexual behaviour and practices, mutual respect and gender equality in sexual relationships;

(h) Encourage all forms of media to promote non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive images and a culture of non-violence and respect for all human rights, and particularly women's rights, in addressing HIV/AIDS;

(i) Encourage active involvement of men and boys through, inter alia, youth-led and youth-specific HIV education projects and peer-based programmes, in challenging gender stereotypes and attitudes as well as gender inequalities in relation to HIV and AIDS, as well as their full participation in prevention, impact alleviation and care, and design and implement programmes to encourage and enable men to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effectively methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

(j) Intensify, especially in the most affected countries, education, services, community-based mobilization and information strategies to protect women of all ages from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including through the development of safe, affordable, effective and easily accessible female-controlled methods, including such methods as microbicides and female condoms that protect against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, as well as voluntary and confidential HIV testing and counselling and the promotion of sexually responsible behaviour, including abstinence and condom use;

(k) Strengthen sustainable, efficient and accessible primary health-care systems that serve to support prevention efforts;

(l) Special attention should be given to the prevention of HIV, particularly with regard to mother-to-child transmission and for victims of rape — on the basis of informed consent and voluntary and confidential testing, counselling and treatment — including through ensuring access to care and improving the quality and availability of affordable drugs and diagnostics, especially antiretroviral therapies, and by building on existing efforts, with special attention given to the issue of breastfeeding;

(m) Strive to ensure that schools at all levels, other education institutions and non-formal systems of education play a leading role in preventing HIV infection, preventing and combating stigmatization and discrimination through the provision of an environment free of all forms of violence that promotes compassion and tolerance, and provide gender-sensitive education, including on responsible sexual behaviour, and practices, life skills and behaviour change;

(n) Work together with civil society, including traditional, community and religious leaders to identify the customary and traditional practices that adversely influence gender relations, and to eliminate those practices that increase the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS.

3. Treatment, care and support

(a) Request Governments to ensure universal and equal access for women and men throughout their life cycle to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health education programmes, especially for women and girls living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic diseases;

(b) Request Governments to work to provide comprehensive health care for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, including dietary and food supplements and treatment for opportunistic infections and full, equal, non-discriminatory and prompt access to health care and health services, including sexual and reproductive health, voluntary and confidential counselling, taking into account the rights of the child to

access to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent and the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents and legal guardians;

(c) Care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly women and girls, should have a comprehensive approach involving medical, social, psychological, spiritual and economic needs, targeting the community and national levels;

(d) Collaborate to strengthen efforts to create an environment and the conditions necessary, with the assistance of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations upon request, to address the challenges faced by women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly orphans and widows, girls and older women who may also be primary caregivers for people living with HIV/AIDS, all of whom are particularly vulnerable to both economic and sexual exploitation; provide them with the necessary economic and psycho-social support and encourage their economic independence through income-generating programmes and other methods;

(e) Provide support for the implementation of special programmes for the growing problems of children orphaned by AIDS, especially girls who may easily become victims of sexual exploitation;

4. Enabling environment for regional and international cooperation

(a) Call upon the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, particularly in favour of women and young girls, including efforts at providing affordable antiretroviral drugs, diagnostics and drugs to treat tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections; strengthening health systems, including reliable distribution and delivery systems; implementing a strong generic drug policy; bulk purchasing; negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices; appropriate financing systems; and encouraging local manufacturing and import practices consistent with national laws and international agreements, and particularly in the worst hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

(b) Take action to eradicate poverty, which is a major contributory factor for the spread of HIV infection and worsens the impact of the epidemic, particularly for women and girls, as well as depleting resources and incomes of families and endangering the survival of present and future generations;

(c) Identify and implement development-oriented and durable solutions that integrate a gender perspective to external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including least developed countries, inter alia, through debt relief, including the option of debt cancellation for official development assistance in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women, inter alia, through facilitating the delivery of health care and health services and the provision of preventive programmes on HIV/AIDS, especially targeting women and girls; and in this regard, welcome the Cologne initiative for the reduction of debt, particularly the speedy implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiatives; and encourages Governments to ensure the provision of adequate funds for its implementation and

implement the provision that funds saved should be used to support anti-poverty programmes that are gender sensitive and that address prevention, care and support of women and girls infected and affected;

(d) Ensure international, regional and South-South cooperation, including development assistance and additional adequate resources to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes aimed at halting the spread of the epidemic in providing affordable quality treatment and care of all people, especially women and girls living with HIV/AIDS;

(e) Encourage the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their support to empower women and prevent HIV infection, to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls, especially in Africa, in particular through the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa;

(f) Increase investment in research on the development of HIV vaccines, microbicides and other female controlled methods, simpler and less expensive diagnostic tests, single-dose treatments for sexually transmitted infections and quality low-cost drug combinations, including for opportunistic infections and sexually transmitted infections, as well as alternative medicine for HIV/AIDS, focusing on the needs of women and girls;

(g) Support and assist research and development centres, in particular at the national level, in the worst-hit regions with a gender specific focus, in the field of vaccines and treatment for HIV/AIDS, as well as support the efforts by Governments in building and/or strengthening their national capacities in this area;

(h) Develop and implement as well as strengthen already existing training programmes for law enforcement officers, prison officers, medical officers and judicial personnel, as well as United Nations personnel, including peacekeeping staff, to be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of threatened and abused women and children infected with HIV/AIDS, including intravenous drug users, female inmates and orphans;

(i) Ensure that the needs of girls and women in relation to HIV/AIDS in all situations of conflict, post-conflict and peacekeeping and in the immediate and reconstructive responses to emergencies and natural disasters are addressed;

(j) Provide gender sensitive prevention and treatment services for female substance abusers living with HIV/AIDS;

(k) Provide technical and financial support to networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations involved in implementing HIV/AIDS programmes, particularly women's groups, in order to strengthen their efforts;

(l) Adopt a balanced approach to prevention and comprehensive care, including treatment and support, for women and girls affected by HIV/AIDS, taking into account the role played by poverty, poor nutritional conditions and underdevelopment, which increases the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS;

(m) Urge relevant United Nations entities to incorporate a gender perspective into their follow-up and evaluation of the progress made on the control of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS;

(n) Commend UNAIDS for its advocacy in successfully accelerating both increased prevention and improved access to care, urge Governments and the international community to continue advocating, lobbying and encourage Governments to enter into negotiations with multinational drug companies for reduction in market prices of HIV/AIDS related drugs and diagnostics to ensure availability, affordability and sustainability to women and girls living with HIV/AIDS.

B

Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

1. The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments reaffirm the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

2. The consistent efforts of the international community in promoting gender equality through the convening of world conferences on women are recalled. It should also be recalled that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", emphasize that all human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The Platform for Action reaffirms that all human rights — civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

3. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action indicate that many women face additional barriers to the enjoyment of their human rights because of such factors as their race, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, disability or socio-economic class or because they are indigenous people, migrants, including women migrant workers, displaced women or refugees. Also the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly indicate that in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation, human rights of women have been extensively violated. Among the further actions and initiatives to implement the platform adopted by the special session were several directed at the elimination of racially motivated violence against women and girls.

4. The efforts of the international community in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are recalled.

5. There has been growing recognition that various types of discrimination do not always affect women and men in the same way. Moreover, gender discrimination may be intensified and facilitated by all other forms of discrimination. It has been increasingly recognized that without gender analysis of all forms of discrimination,

including multiple forms of discrimination and, in particular, in this context, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, violations of the human rights of women might escape detection and remedies to address racism may also fail to meet the needs of women and girls. It is also important that efforts to address gender discrimination incorporate approaches to the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination.

6. By its resolution 52/111 the General Assembly decided to convene a World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001. In its resolution 53/132 the Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It is therefore timely that the gender dimensions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are addressed by the Commission on the Status of Women.

7. The increasing gravity of different manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in various parts of the world requires a more integrated and effective approach on the part of relevant mechanisms of the United Nations human rights machinery. These trends affect the implementation of the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" as well as to the relevant international instruments against discrimination.

8. The Commission recommends that the following actions be taken:

Actions to be taken by Governments, the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate

1. An integrated, holistic approach to address multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

(a) Examine the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination, including their root causes, from a gender perspective with special emphasis on gender-based racial discrimination in order to develop and implement strategies, policies and programmes aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and to increase the role that women play in the design, implementation and monitoring of gender-sensitive anti-racist policies;

(b) Establish and strengthen effective partnerships with and provide support, as appropriate, to all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations working to promote gender equality and advancement of women, in particular women subject to multiple discrimination, in order to promote an integrated and holistic approach to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls;

(c) Acknowledge the need to address the issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as and where they affect young women and men, boys and girls and recognize the role they play in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including particular forms of racism experienced by young women and girls, and support the

fundamental role played by youth non-governmental organizations in educating young people and children to build a society based on respect and solidarity;

(d) Promote respect for and value of the full diversity of women's and girls' situations and conditions and recognize that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment and ensure that the goals of achieving gender equality and advancement of women, including marginalized women, are reflected in all strategies, policies and programmes aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls; and mainstream a gender perspective into the preparation and implementation of policies integrating multiculturalism, ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls and reaffirming that human rights — civil, cultural, economical, political and social, including the right to development — are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;

(e) Promote recognition that the empowerment of women is an essential component of a proactive strategy to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of related intolerance and take measures to empower women subject to multiple discrimination to fully exercise their rights in all spheres of life and to play an active role in the design and implementation of policies and measures that affect their lives;

(f) Take action to raise awareness and promote the eradication of all forms of discrimination, including multiple discrimination experienced by women through, inter alia, education and mass media campaigns;

(g) The Platform for Action recognized that women face barriers to full equality and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents, and their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women, as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women;

(h) Acknowledge that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance manifest themselves in a differentiated manner for women, increasing poverty, causing their living conditions to deteriorate, generating violence and limiting or denying them the full enjoyment and exercise of all their human rights;

(i) Ensure the full and equal opportunity for the sustained participation and representation of indigenous women and girls and women and girls, as appropriate, from culturally diverse backgrounds in all relevant decision-making processes;

(j) Ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women takes into account in its work the impact of all forms of discrimination, including multiple discrimination on women's advancement;

(k) Acknowledge the ongoing work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in taking into account the impact of multiple forms of discrimination on women's advancement and the achievement of gender equality.

2. Policies, legal measures, mechanisms and machineries

(a) Establish and/or strengthen, where appropriate, legislation and regulations against all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their gender-based manifestations;

(b) Condemn all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including propaganda, activities and organizations based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons that attempts to justify or promote racism or racial discrimination in any form;

(c) Take concrete measures to promote equality based on the elimination of gender and racial prejudice in all fields, through, inter alia, improving access to education, health care, employment and other basic services to promote full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights for all women and girls;

(d) Take measures to address, through policies and programmes, racism and racially motivated violence against women and girls and to increase cooperation, policy responses, effective implementation of national legislation and other protective and preventive measures aimed at the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(e) Review, where appropriate, national legal and other mechanisms, including the criminal justice system, to ensure equality before the law so that women and girls can seek protection, shelter and remedies against all forms of discrimination, including intersectional discrimination;

(f) Review, where appropriate, policies and laws, including those on citizenship, immigration and asylum, for their impact on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the achievement of gender equality,

(g) Design and implement policies and measures that address all forms of violence against women and girls, and empower victims of all forms of violence, in particular women and girls, to regain control over their lives, inter alia, through special protection and assistance measures;

(h) Devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls through a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy consisting of, inter alia, legislative measures, prevention campaigns, information exchange, assistance and protection for and reintegration of the victims and prosecution of all the offenders involved, including intermediaries;

(i) Develop and implement policies to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls regardless of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin;

(j) Take measures, as appropriate, to promote and strengthen policies and programmes for indigenous women with their full participation and respect for their cultural diversity, to combat discrimination based on gender and race, to ensure their full enjoyment of all human rights;

(k) Review and revise, as appropriate, emigration policies with a view to eliminating all discriminatory policies and practices against migrants, especially women and children, and to protect fully all their human rights, regardless of their legal status, as well as to provide them with humane treatment;

(l) Take steps to eliminate any violations of the human rights of women refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons who are often subjected to sexual and other violence;

(m) Urge all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in order to achieve its universal ratification emphasizes the importance of the full compliance of States parties with the obligations they have accepted under this Convention;

(n) Consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[37] as a matter of priority, and consider promoting ratification of the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization.

3. Change attitudes and eliminate stereotypes and prejudice

(a) Develop gender sensitive education and training programmes aimed at eliminating discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls, and adopt measures to address the intersection between racist and gender-based stereotypes;

(b) Develop and implement programmes and policies to raise awareness among all relevant actors at national, regional and international levels to the issue of multiple discrimination against women and girls;

(c) Review and update educational materials, including textbooks, and take appropriate action to remove all elements promoting discrimination, in particular gender-based discrimination, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(d) Ensure that education and training, especially teacher training, promote respect for human rights, the culture of peace, gender equality and cultural, religious and other diversity, and encourage educational and training institutions and organizations to adopt policies of equal opportunities and follow up their implementation with the participation of teachers, parents, boys and girls and the community;

(e) Develop strategies to increase awareness among men and boys with respect to their shared responsibility in promoting gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as multiple discrimination;

(f) Develop anti-racist and gender-sensitive human rights training for personnel in the administration of justice, law enforcement agencies, security and health-care services schools and migration authorities, paying particular attention to immigration officials, border police and staff of migrant detention centres, as well as for United Nations personnel;

(g) Bearing in mind gender perspective, encourage the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and different cultures.

[37] General Assembly resolution 45/158.

4. Research and collection of data and information

(a) Develop methodologies to identify the ways in which various forms of discrimination converge and affect women and girls and conduct studies on how racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are reflected in laws, policies, institutions and practices and how this has contributed to the vulnerability, victimization, marginalization and exclusion of women and the girl child;

(b) Collect, analyse and disseminate quantitative, qualitative and gender-sensitive data regarding the impact of all forms of discrimination, including the multiple discrimination, on women and girls and sponsor, where appropriate, surveys and community-based research, including the collection of disaggregated data by sex, age and other factors as appropriate.

5. Preventing conflict and promoting a culture of peace, equality, non-discrimination, respect and tolerance

(a) Respect fully international human rights law and international humanitarian law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls and take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and all other forms of sexual violence during armed conflict, and end impunity and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including those relating to sexual and other gender-based violence against women and girls;

(b) Violence against women and girls is a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of gender equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Gender-based violence, such as battering and other domestic violence, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and exploitation, international trafficking in women and children, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, as well as violence against women resulting from cultural prejudice, racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, pornography, ethnic cleansing, armed conflict, foreign occupation, religious and anti-religious extremism and terrorism, are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated;

(c) Ensure the full and equal opportunity for sustained participation and representation of women at all levels and in all areas in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

6. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

The Commission on the Status of Women stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the preparations, work and the outcome of the World Conference, and urges the inclusion of women in delegations to the Conference.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 45/1
Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered with appreciation the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action concerning the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflict; [38]

Recalling its resolutions 39/2 of 31 March 1995, 40/1 of 22 March 1996, 41/1 of 21 March 1997, 42/2 of 13 March 1998, 43/1 of 12 March 1999 and 44/1 of 2 March 2000,

Recalling also the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of women and children in areas of armed conflict,

Welcoming the adoption of the Beijing Declaration[39] and Platform for Action[40] by the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[41] including the provisions regarding violence against women and children,

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they have caused,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence committed against the civilian population, in particular women and children in areas of armed conflict, including capturing them as hostages, seriously contravene international humanitarian law for the protection of victims of war, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[42]

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[38] E/CN.6/2001/2, paras. 101-121.

[39] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[40] Ibid., annex II.

[41] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

[42] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

1. *Condemns* violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against civilian women and children in areas of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, including the immediate release of such women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

2. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and to take all necessary measures for the protection of these women and children and for their immediate release;

3. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for these women and children;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the release of these women and children;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session.

Resolution 45/2
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Affirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[43] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[44] and for achieving the overall goal of gender equality,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, in which the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would have a catalytic role on mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes and would identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination,

Recalling also its resolution 41/6 of 21 March 1997[45] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2[46] on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in which there was a call for immediate and concrete steps to mainstream a gender perspective, including the implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 as a matter of urgency and at the latest by the time of the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2000,

---

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[43] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[44] See General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

[45] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.

[46] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1).

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000, in which the Assembly, inter alia, invited the Economic and Social Council to continue policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including by considering the dedication of specific segments to the advancement of women and implementation of the above-mentioned documents and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its work,

1. *Reaffirms* that the primary goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective is the achievement of gender equality as affirmed in the Beijing Platform for Action;

2. *Reaffirms also* that mainstreaming a gender perspective is integral to the empowerment of women and to achieving gender equality, and reiterates that responsibility for mainstreaming within the United Nations system starts at the highest level;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing commitment and actions taken by the Secretary-General and entities of the United Nations system to mainstreaming a gender perspective into the United Nations system;

4. *Welcomes also* the statement on gender equality and mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations system issued by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its first regular session of 1998;[47]

5. *Welcomes further* the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, particularly its coordination and catalytic role in the area of gender mainstreaming and policy analysis and in the work programmes of the bodies of the United Nations system, and its work in compiling good practices and guidelines in the area of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in future reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to assess progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further actions and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council consider:

(a) Establishing, in the context of its general segment, a regular item on its agenda on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the United Nations system to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and consider further measures to strengthen implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

(b) Devoting a future coordination segment, by 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and to identify further strategies to accelerate their implementation, and as part of this review and appraisal, to request functional commissions to report on the progress made in implementing agreed conclusions 1997/2 in their work;

[47] ACC/1998/4, para. 63.

(c) Ensuring that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all its work and, in order to enhance its ability to do so, requesting the Secretary-General and bodies reporting to the Economic and Social Council to address the gender aspects of issues before the Council in their reports;

(d) Further intensifying its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2.

Resolution 45/3
Proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/34 of 25 July 1996, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate a new system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women to cover the period 2002-2005, to submit the new draft plan to the Council at its substantive session of 2000 in order to provide guidance for the medium-term plans of the individual organizations of the United Nations system, and to submit the draft plan to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session for comments,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/16, in which the Council invites the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to formulate the above-mentioned plan for 2002-2005 in two phases — a first phase consisting of an assessment of activities undertaken by the United Nations system and of obstacles encountered and lessons learned from the present plan and the system-wide process of its implementation, and the second phase consisting of a new plan that reflects the growing emphasis on action and delivery,

Recognizing the role of the Economic and Social Council in overseeing the system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[48] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[49]

Recalling that Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Further recalling that the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly need to be implemented through the work of all of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as an integral part of system-wide programming,

Recognizing that the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly call upon the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[48] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[49] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

strengthen their support for actions at the national level and to enhance their contributions to coordinated follow-up by the United Nations and that each organization should set out the specific actions that it will undertake, including goals and targets to realign priorities and redirect resources to meet the global priorities identified in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with a clear delineation of responsibility and accountability, all of which should be reflected in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women 2002-2005, and stressing in this connection the need for appropriate mechanisms for coordination and cooperation,

Aware that the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly stress that the responsibility for ensuring their implementation and the integration of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system must rest at the highest levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed System-wide Medium-term Plan for the Advancement of Women 2002-2005;[50]

2. *Stresses* that the System-wide Medium-term Plan for the Advancement of Women 2002-2005 should be an effective instrument for promoting the coordinated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

3. *Takes note also* of the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the implementation of the System-wide Medium-term Plan for the Advancement of Women 1996-2001;[51]

4. *Recommends* the adoption of the proposed System-wide Medium-term Plan for the Advancement of Women 2002-2005 by the Economic and Social Council, taking into account the present resolution and the comments of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Cordination, as well as taking note of comments by some Member States of the Commission on the Status of Women as contained in annex IV to the report of the Commission on its 45th session;[52]

5. *Stresses* the importance of gender mainstreaming, inter alia, institutional follow-up and capacity-building as a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and for achieving the overall goals of gender equality;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of a coherent and strategic approach to the actions planned to address the strategic objectives spelt out under each critical area of concern, as well as of integrating a gender perspective into policies and programmes of entities of the United Nations system;

7. *Recommends* that the System-wide Medium-term Plan for the Advancement of Women 2002-2005 serve as a monitoring and coordination tool at all levels for system-wide progress in implementing actions under each critical area

[50] E/CN.6/2001/4.
[51] E/CN.6/2000/3.
[52] The present report.

of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

8. *Stresses* the importance of involving all parts of the United Nations in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including at the highest decision-making levels;

9. *Invites* the United Nations bodies that meet under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to regularly discuss progress made in implementing activities under each area of critical concern, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006 and of the Economic and Social Council, and to provide up-to-date information in those areas to the Council through the Commission, taking into consideration the comments made on the plan by the Commission and other relevant bodies;

10. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on the Status of Women, follow-up the implementation of the plan and undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the plan in 2004, including the identification of obstacles and challenges as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of the progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system;

11. *Also recommends* that the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality use the plan and comments on it as a basis for monitoring increasing collaboration and cost-effective approaches to United Nations system activities for the advancement and empowerment of women, including assessment of methods for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all United Nations activities, ensuring accountability and carrying out impact analyses of gender-sensitive programmes and policies;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all United Nations activities system-wide, including in decision-making, as part of the accountability of senior managers;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, to integrate a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes and to assure adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men;

14. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council request formulation of a new System-wide Medium-term Plan for the Advancement of Women to cover the period 2006-2010, that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, submit the new draft plan to the Council at its substantive session of 2005 in order to provide guidance to the medium-term plans of the individual organizations of the United Nations system and that the draft of the proposal be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session, for comments.

Decision 45/101
Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission on the Status of Women, in view of paragraph 9 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[53] requests that a decision for enhancing the review of the progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[54] and of the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly should be taken in coordination with the conference reviews of other functional commissions.

Decision 45/102
Enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women decides, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46, in particular annex II, to request its Bureau to undertake, with the assistance of the Secretariat, the preparatory work necessary for a further discussion of the working methods of the Commission at its forty-sixth session, building on the discussions that were held during its forty-fifth session, and requests that adequate time be allocated to discussion of this matter during the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

Decision 45/103
Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women

The Commission on the Status of Women, having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted at its forty-fifth session assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area for communications concerning the status of women[55] and the views expressed in this regard by Member States, decides to request the Secretary-General to submit another report on the communications procedure of the Commission and ways and means to make it more effective and efficient, based, inter alia, on written opinions of Member States and taking into account discussions at the forty-fifth session of the Commission. The comprehensive report, which may contain recommendations, should be submitted to Member States in a timely manner prior to the forty-sixth session of the Commission for consideration at that session.

Decision 45/104
Resumed session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women decides to meet in resumed session from 9 to 11 May 2001, subject to the availability of services and the approval of the Committee on Conferences, in order to complete the work of its forty-fifth session.

---

[53] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex.

[54] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[55] E/CN.6/2001/12.

Decision 45/105
Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003

The Commission on the Status of Women, having considered the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003[56] at its forty-fifth session, recommends that the Committee for Programme and Coordination, when reviewing the relevant section of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, take into consideration the outcome of discussions as contained in annex III to the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session.[57]

Decision 45/106
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3

At its 16th meeting, on 17 March 2001, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General containing a joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[58]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat;[59]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women;[60]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women;[61]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women.[62]

[56] E/CN.6/2001/CRP.2.
[57] The present report.
[58] E/CN.4/2001/70-E/CN.6/2001/3.
[59] E/CN.6/2001/5.
[60] E/CN.4/2001/126-E/CN.6/2001/6.
[61] E/CN.6/2001/7 and Corr.1.
[62] E/CN.6/2001/8.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st to 5th, 9th, 10th, 12th and 16th to 18th meetings, on 6, 7, 12, 13 and 17 March and 9 and 11 May 2001. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (E/CN.6/2001/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2001/2/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General containing a joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2001/70-E/CN.6/2001/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women 2002-2005 (E/CN.6/2001/4);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2001/5);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (E/CN.4/2001/126-E/CN.6/2001/6);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/7 and Corr.1);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/8);

(i) Note by the Secretariat on the contribution of the United Nations Volunteers programme to the preparations for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2001/13);

(j) Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Soroptimist International, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the All India Women's Conference, the Associated Country Women of the World, the Baha'i International Community, the International Federation of University Women, the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, the United States Committee for UNIFEM and the World Young Women's Christian

Association non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and the Armenian International Women's Association, International Special Dietary Foods Industries, the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the World Union for Progressive Judaism, non-governmental organizations on the Roster (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/1);

(k) Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers and the International Federation of Women Lawyers, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Council (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/8);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2001/CRP.1);

(m) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003 (E/CN.6/2001/CRP.2).

2. At its 1st to 3rd, 5th and 9th meetings, on 6, 8 and 12 March, the Commission held a general discussion on the item.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 6 March, statements were made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Chile (on behalf of the Rio Group), Germany, Senegal, Pakistan and Cuba, and the observers for Sweden (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Cyprus, Malta and Iceland), and Namibia (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community).

5. Statements were also made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Mother's Union and Soroptimist International (on behalf of a coalition of non-governmental organizations).

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 March, statements were made by the representatives of Peru, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Croatia, the United States of America, Rwanda, Denmark and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the observer for Canada.

7. Statements were also made by the representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (on behalf of the five regional commissions).

9. The observer for the Council of Europe made a statement.

10. Statements were also made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: International Federation of University Women (as Chairperson of the Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women), International Council of Women, International Projects Assistance Service.

11. At the 3rd meeting, on 7 March, statements were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Egypt, the Republic of Korea, Argentina, China, Brazil, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania, and the observers for Norway, Israel, Guatemala, Namibia, Zambia, Ghana and Kenya.

12. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome made a statement.

14. Statements were also made by the representatives of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization.

15. The observer for the International Organization for Migration also made a statement.

16. At the 5th meeting, on 8 March, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, and the observers for Australia, Nigeria, New Zealand, Vanuatu (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Group), Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Thailand, Iraq, South Africa, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Mali and Botswana.

17. The Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also made a statement.

18. At the same meeting, the Director for the Advancement of Women of the International Research and Training Institute made a statement.

19. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also made a statement.

20. At the 9th meeting, on 12 March, statements were made by the representatives of Burundi and Guinea, and the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic.

21. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Development Programme.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: an African caucus of non-governmental organizations, Empowering Widows, a youth caucus of non-governmental organizations, Association of Interbalkan Women's Cooperative Societies and American Association of Retired Persons.

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern (agenda item 3 (c))

23. At its 4th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission held a discussion on its multi-year work programme, under agenda item 3 (c), and heard a statement by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, who read out corrections to the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a multi-year work programme of the Commission (document E/CN.6/2001/7).

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Tunisia, the United States of America, Mexico, the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), China and Cuba and by the observers for Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Australia, Mali, the Philippines, New Zealand, Canada and Algeria.

Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system (agenda item 3 (a))

25. At its 12th meeting, on 13 March, the Commission held a discussion on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 2002-2005, under agenda item 3 (a).

26. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, China, the Sudan and India and the observers for Sweden (on behalf of the European Union) and Canada.

27. Also at its 12th meeting, under agenda item 3 (a), the Commission held a discussion on the programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003.

28. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, China, India, Mexico and Tunisia and the observers for Sweden (on behalf of the European Union) and Algeria.

29. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women responded to questions raised during the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

30. At the 10th meeting, on 12 March, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2001/L.2).

31. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, the Commission had before it the text of a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2001/L.2/Rev.1), by which:

(a) The fifth preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Stressing* the need for compliance with the existing Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process,"

was revised to read:

"*Stressing* the need for compliance with the existing Israeli-Palestinian agreements concluded within the context of the Middle East peace process and the need to resume peace negotiations, as soon as possible, in order to reach a final settlement,";

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph, which read:

"*Gravely concerned in particular* at the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, especially children, which in the last few months has resulted in scores of Palestinian deaths and injuries,"

was revised to read:

"*Expressing* its condemnation of acts of violence, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinians, resulting in injury and loss of human life,";

(c) In operative paragraph 1, the words "taking into account the common ground already gained" were inserted after the words "agreed basis".

32. The Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

33. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 31 to 1, with 1 abstention, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Rwanda.

34. Statements in explanation of vote were made after the vote by the representatives of the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

35. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement after the adoption of the draft resolution.

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

36. At the 10th meeting, on 12 March, the representative of Azerbaijan, on behalf of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina,[1] Georgia,[1] Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan,[1] Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Suriname,[1] Tajikistan and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts" (E/CN.6/2001/L.3). In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Azerbaijan orally revised it as follows:

(a) A new preambular paragraph was inserted before the first preambular paragraph, which read as follows:

"Having considered with appreciation the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action concerning the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflict";

(b) The words "and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'" were inserted in the third preambular paragraph after the words "by the Fourth World Conference on Women" and at the end of the sixth preambular paragraph.

37. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, Armenia,[1] Bangladesh,[1] Belarus,[1] Kuwait,[1] Malaysia, the Philippines,[1] Uruguay[1] and Uzbekistan[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

38. The Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

39. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 31 to none, with two 2 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 45/1). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

India, United States of America.

40. Statements in explanation of vote were made after the vote by the representatives of the United States of America and India.

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

41. The observer for Sweden (on behalf of the European Union) also made a statement after the adoption of the draft resolution.

Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

42. At the 10th meeting, on 12 March, the observer for Namibia,[1] on behalf of Angola,[1] Botswana,[1] the Democratic Republic of the Congo,[1] Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius,[1] Mozambique,[1] Namibia,[1] the Seychelles,[1] South Africa,[1] Swaziland,[1] the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia[1] and Zimbabwe,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)" (E/CN.6/2001/L.4), which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recognizing* that women play a vital role in the social and economic development of their countries and therefore profoundly concerned by the fact that out of 36.1 million people living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) today, women now represent about half of all people over age fifteen living with HIV and AIDS,

"*Noting with great concern* that the proportion of women becoming infected with HIV is growing in every region, that in sub-Saharan Africa the majority of those living with HIV are women and that, in the younger age brackets (fifteen to twenty-four years of age), girls are at higher risk of HIV infection and more girls than boys are now infected,

"*Mindful* that the majority of women and the girl child in most developing countries do not enjoy full social and economic rights, such as education, health care and welfare, that these inequalities begin early in life and render women and the girl child unable to protect their sexual and reproductive health, thus increasing their risk and vulnerability to HIV infection, and that they therefore suffer disproportionately from the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic,

"*Recognizing* that poverty, negative cultural practices and the subordinate status of women in the household, community and society render women especially vulnerable to HIV/sexually transmitted infections,

"*Recognizing also* that women, in particular young girls, are physiologically and biologically more vulnerable than men to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and yet lack access to, and/or receive, minimal health care and support when infected,

"*Noting with concern* the link and decreased attention to sexually transmitted infections which increase the risk of transmission of HIV in women and girls,

"*Noting also with concern* that approximately 80 per cent of infected women have been infected through unprotected sex with an infected male partner, and acknowledging, therefore, that men have a shared responsibility towards protecting their own and women's sexual health,

"*Acknowledging* that millions of women do not have access to means that have proved effective in preventing infection, lowering infection rates and improving the quality of life, such as male and female condoms, affordable anti-retroviral drugs, relevant preventive education, acceptable counselling and testing services,

"*Noting* the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa and the efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsoring organizations, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, to empower women through capacity development programmes, as well as programmes that provide women with access to development resources and strengthen their networks that offer care and support to women affected by HIV/AIDS,

"1. *Welcomes* the decision to convene the Organization of African Unity Special Summit on HIV/AIDS in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2001, and the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in June 2001;

"2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the HIV/AIDS goals and objectives contained in the political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, as adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century';

"3. *Also reaffirms* the rights of women and the girl child infected and affected by HIV/AIDS/sexually transmitted infections to have access to health, education and social services and to be protected from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect;

"4. *Further reaffirms* the human rights of girls and women to equal access to education, skills training and employment opportunities as a means to reduce their vulnerability to HIV and sexually transmitted infections;

"5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen women's economic independence and to protect and promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to better protect themselves from HIV/sexually transmitted infections;

"6. *Stresses* that every effort should be made by Governments, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to place combating HIV/AIDS as a priority in the development agenda and to implement effective prevention strategies and programmes, especially for the most vulnerable populations, including women, young girls and infants, also taking into account prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against

HIV/AIDS, including efforts at providing affordable anti-retroviral drugs, particularly in favour of women and young girls, in the worst-hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

"8. *Urges* Governments to take steps to create an environment that promotes compassion and support for people infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, to provide the legal framework that will protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, to enable those who are vulnerable to have access to appropriate voluntary counselling services and to encourage efforts to reduce discrimination and stigmatization;

"9. *Urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to create an environment and conditions that will take care of and support children orphaned by AIDS;

"10. *Encourages* Governments to recognize the challenges facing girls and women, particularly older women, who are primary caregivers for people living with HIV/AIDS, and to provide them with the necessary economic and psychosocial support;

"11. *Urges* Governments, with the assistance of relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to adopt a long-term, timely, coherent and integrated AIDS prevention policy, with public information and life skills-based education programmes specifically tailored to the needs of women and girls within their sociocultural contexts and sensitivities and the specific needs in their life cycle;

"12. *Encourages* Governments and civil society to support women's groups and community organizations in changing harmful traditions and practices affecting the health of women and girls and to take steps to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including rape and sexual coercion, which aggravate the conditions fostering the spread of the epidemic;

"13. *Encourages* accelerated research on vaccine development and intensified additional research on promoting the female condom, microbicides and other options that offer women more control over the protection of their reproductive sexual health;

"14. *Requests* Governments to provide comprehensive health care for women and girls with HIV, including treatment for opportunistic diseases and reproductive health services, and also ensure that condoms and treatment for sexually transmitted infections are affordable and available in places accessible to women while ensuring their privacy;

"15. *Urges* Governments and networks to continue advocating, lobbying and entering into negotiations with multinational drug companies for a drastic reduction in the market prices of HIV/AIDS-related drugs and diagnostics to ensure their availability to women and girls living with HIV/AIDS;

"16. *Welcomes* the efforts at coordination by the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and the efforts in promoting sexual and reproductive health education for young people, in particular girls, while encouraging them

to delay sexual initiation and, in this context, urges that greater attention be given to the education of men and boys about their roles and their responsibilities in preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to their partners;

"17. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programmes on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in their efforts to prevent HIV infection, to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls in Africa;

"18. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, to mainstream gender policies and programmes integrating HIV/AIDS activities;

"19. *Takes note with appreciation* of section I on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS of the report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women, and invites the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

43. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, following statements by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community and the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/2001/L.4), the Commission agreed to defer consideration of the draft resolution to its resumed session.

44. At the 18th meeting, on 11 May, the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/2001/L.4 withdrew their text in the light of the adoption of the draft agreed conclusions on women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) under agenda item 4 (a) (see chap. III, sect. A).

Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan

45. At the 10th meeting, on 12 March, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Germany, Guatemala,[1] Hungary,[1] Iceland,[1] Israel,[1] Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway,[1] Portugal,[1] Turkey, Switzerland,[1] the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan" (E/CN.6/2001/L.5), which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Further actions and initiatives to implement the

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and other instruments of human rights and international law,

"*Recalling* that Afghanistan is party to the Convention on the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

"*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

"*Welcoming* the substantive report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, and the conclusions contained therein, including the need to monitor and evaluate the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls who reside in all areas of Afghanistan,

"*Also welcoming* the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, which found 'official, widespread and systematic violation of the human rights of women in Taliban controlled areas',

"[*Deploring*] the deteriorating economic, social and cultural conditions of women and girls in all areas of Afghanistan, in particular in areas under the control of the Taliban movement, as documented by the continued and substantiated reports of grave violations to the physical security and integrity as well as the human rights of women and girls, including discrimination in terms of access to health care, to level and types of education, to employment outside the home, to freedom of movement and to freedom of association,

"*Welcoming* the fourth report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, entitled 'Interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan', and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, in particular his special focus on violations of the human rights of women and girls, especially in territories under the control of the Taliban faction,

"*Deeply concerned about* the detrimental impact of these harmful conditions on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care, and the detrimental effect of the restrictions to women's and girls' education and women's employment on the functions of Afghan society and the reconstruction and development of the country,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the international community's support of and solidarity with the women and girls of Afghanistan, being supportive of the women of Afghanistan who protest against violations of their human

rights, and encouraging women and men worldwide to continue efforts to draw attention to their situation and to promote the immediate restoration of their ability to enjoy their human rights,

"1. *Strongly condemns* the continuing grave violations of the human rights of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them in all areas of Afghanistan, particularly in areas under the control of the Taliban;

"2. *Also condemns* the continued restrictions on women's access to health care and the systematic violation of the human rights of women in Afghanistan, including the restrictions on access to education and employment outside the home, on freedom of movement and on freedom from intimidation, harassment and violence, which have a serious detrimental effect on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care;

"3. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, and to respect international humanitarian law;

"4. *Urges* all the Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to bring to an end, without delay, all human rights violations against women and girls, and to take urgent measures to ensure:

"(a) The repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and those that impede the realization of all their human rights;

"(b) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

"(c) Respect for the equal right of women to work and their reintegration in employment in all segments of the Afghan society, as well as through the United Nations system and human rights organizations operating within Afghanistan;

"(d) The equal right of women and girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education;

"(e) Respect for the right of women and girls to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women and girls are brought to justice;

"(f) Respect for freedom of movement for women and girls;

"(g) Respect for the effective and equal access of women and girls to the facilities necessary to protect their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

"5. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all United Nations-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women

in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes;

"6. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, in conformity with the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective, and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"7. *Urges* States to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women in Afghanistan and to mainstream a gender perspective in all aspects of their policies and actions related to Afghanistan;

"8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the positions of Gender Adviser and Human Rights Adviser in the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator for Afghanistan in order to ensure more effective consideration and implementation of human rights and gender concerns in all United Nations programmes within Afghanistan, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the inter-agency gender mission to Afghanistan conducted by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in November 1997;

"9. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations activities in Afghanistan are carried out according to the principle of non-discrimination against women and girls, and that a gender perspective and special attention to the human rights of women and girls are fully incorporated into the work of the civil affairs unit established within the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, including the training and selection of staff, and that efforts be made to enhance the role of women in preventative diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping;

"10. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan giving special attention to the human rights of women and girls and fully incorporating a gender perspective in his work;

"11. *Appeals* to States and the international community to implement the recommendations of the inter-agency gender mission to Afghanistan under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women;

"12. *Urges* all Afghan factions, in particular the Taliban, to ensure the safety and protection of all United Nations and humanitarian workers in Afghanistan and to allow them, regardless of gender, to carry out their work unhindered;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

46. At its 16th meeting, on 17 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2001/L.5/Rev.1), submitted by Argentina, Armenia,[1] Australia,[1] Austria,[1] Azerbaijan, Belgium,[1] Brazil, Bulgaria,[1] Canada,[1] Chile, Croatia, Cyprus,[1] the Czech Republic,[1] Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador,[1] Estonia,[1] Finland,[1] France,[1] Georgia,[1] Germany, Greece,[1] Guatemala,[1] Hungary,[1] Iceland,[1] India, Ireland,[1] Israel,[1] Italy, Japan, Kenya,[1] Liechtenstein,[1] Lithuania, Luxembourg,[1] Mali,[1] Malta,[1] Mexico, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand,[1] Norway,[1] Poland,[1] Portugal,[1] the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova,[1] Romania,[1] the Russian Federation, Slovenia,[1] South Africa,[1] Spain,[1] Sweden,[1] Switzerland,[1] Thailand,[1] Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay.[1]

47. The Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

48. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the revised draft resolution, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

49. Before the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Pakistan and the United States of America; after it was adopted, the observer for Algeria made a statement.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

50. At the 10th meeting, on 12 March, the observer for Canada[1] on behalf of Andorra,[1] Argentina, Australia,[1] Austria,[1] Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Canada,[1] Chile, Croatia, Cyprus,[1] the Czech Republic,[1] Fiji,[1] Finland,[1] Germany, Guatemala,[1] Iceland,[1] Ireland,[1] Italy, Liechtenstein,[1] Luxembourg,[1] Mexico, Nauru,[1] the Netherlands, New Zealand,[1] Norway,[1] Portugal,[1] the Republic of Korea, Spain,[1] Sweden,[1] Switzerland,[1] Thailand,[1] the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" (E/CN.6/2001/L.6). Subsequently, Azerbaijan, Belarus,[1] Brazil, Denmark, France,[1] Greece,[1] Hungary,[1] Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta,[1] Mongolia, Namibia,[1] Papua New Guinea,[1] Romania,[1] Rwanda, Samoa,[1] Slovenia,[1] Solomon Islands,[1] South Africa,[1] Turkey and Venezuela[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Affirming* that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and for achieving the overall goal of gender equality,

"*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, in which the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would have a catalytic role on mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes and would identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 41/6 of 21 March 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

"*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in which there was a call for immediate and concrete steps to mainstream a gender perspective, including the implementation of the 1997/2 agreed conclusions as a matter of urgency and at the latest by the time of the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2000,

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000, in which the Assembly, inter alia, invited the Economic and Social Council to continue policy coordination and inter-agency cooperation towards the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including by considering dedicating specific segments to the advancement of women and implementation of the above-mentioned documents and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its work,

"1. *Reaffirms* that the primary goal of mainstreaming a gender perspective is the achievement of gender equality as affirmed in the Beijing Platform for Action;

"2. *Reaffirms also* that mainstreaming a gender perspective is integral to the empowerment of women and to achieving gender equality;

"3. *Welcomes* the ongoing commitment of the Secretary-General to mainstreaming a gender perspective into the United Nations system and the steps taken by various entities of the United Nations system to integrate a gender perspective into their work, including those outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

"4. *Welcomes also* the statement on gender equality and mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations system issued by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its first regular session of 1998;

"5. *Welcomes further* the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, particularly its coordination and catalytic role in the area of gender mainstreaming, policy analysis and operational activities in the work programmes of the bodies of the United Nations system, and its work in compiling good practices, guidelines and indicators in the area of gender mainstreaming;

"6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in future reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to assess progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system, including by providing information on key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, and to recommend further actions and strategies for future action within the United Nations system;

"*Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following decision:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered resolution 45/___ of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"Decides to:

"(a) Establish, in the context of its general segment, a regular item on its agenda on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the United Nations system to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, including the Secretariat, and consider further measures to strengthen implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including the development of guidelines and practical tools, such as, inter alia, performance indicators, mechanisms for accountability, gender training programmes and impact analyses, as well as the identification and compilation of best practices, and the use of Internet-based tools;

"(b) Devote a future coordination segment, by 2005, to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system and to identify further strategies to accelerate their implementation, and as part of this review and appraisal, and to request functional commissions to report on the progress made in implementing the agreed conclusions 1997/2 in their work;

"(c) Ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed into all its work and, in order to enhance its ability to do so, requests the Secretary-General and bodies reporting to the Economic and Social Council to address the gender aspects of issues before the Council in their reports;

"(d) Further intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all its activities concerning integrated and coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences, building upon agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Council;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

51. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, the observer for Canada, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an informal paper.

52. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution, as orally revised, contained no programme budget implications.

53. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 45/2).

54. Before the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

Proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006

55. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Loreto Leyton (Chile), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proposals for a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women for 2002-2006" (E/CN.6/2001/L.8).

56. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

57. Also at the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

58. Before the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Mexico and Senegal and the observer for France.

Enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women

59. At its 16th meeting, on 17 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission adopted a draft decision regarding its working methods (for the text, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/102).

Documents relating to agenda item 3

60. At its 16th meeting, on 17 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the following documents under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/106):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General containing a joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2001/70-E/CN.6/2001/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2001/5);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (E/CN.4/2001/126-E/CN.6/2001/6);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/7 and Corr.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/8).

Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003

61. At its 17th meeting, on 9 May, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003" (E/CN.6/2001/L.10/Rev.1), submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations.

62. At the same meeting, an informal paper was circulated containing a summary of comments by some Member States on the proposed programme of work.

63. The Commission was informed that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

64. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/105) and agreed to annex the summary of comments by some Member States on the proposed programme of work to the present report (see annex III).

Proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005

65. At its 17th meeting, on 9 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005" (E/CN.6/2001/L.12), submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations, together with an informal paper containing revisions to the draft resolution.

66. At the same meeting, an informal paper was also circulated containing a summary of comments by some Member States on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan.

67. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

68. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as revised (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 45/3), and agreed to annex the summary of comments by some Member States on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan to the present report (see annex IV).

Chapter III
Thematic issues

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 6th, 11th, 16th and 18th meetings, on 8, 13 and 17 March and 11 May 2001. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/9);

(b) Statement submitted by the American Association of Retired Persons, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/2);

(c) Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/3);

(d) Statement submitted by Legiao da Boa Vontade (Legion of Good Will), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/4);

(e) Statement submitted by the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/5);

(f) Statement submitted by the World Veterans Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/6);

(g) Statement submitted by the Baha'i International Community, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/7);

(h) Statement submitted by the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Alliance of Women, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, the Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, the European Women's Lobby, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Federation for Home Economics, the International Federation of University Women, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, the Women's International Zionist Organization, the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and the European Union of Women and International Inner Wheel, non-governmental organizations on the Roster (E/CN.6/2001/NGO/9).

A. Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

2. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (agenda item 4 (a)).

3. Presentations were made by the following experts: Mabel Bianco (Argentina), Director of the HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Executive Coordination Unit, Ministry of Health; Sharifah H. Shahabudin (Malaysia), Professor of Medical Education and Director of the Centre of Academic Development; Elhadj Sy (Senegal), UNAIDS representative in New York; Sheila Dinotshe Tlou (Botswana), Associate Professor, Department of Nursing Education, Faculty of Education, University of Botswana.

4. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts in which the following delegations participated: Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Namibia (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Viet Nam, Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), United States of America, Turkey, Australia, China, Israel, India, Senegal, Dominican Republic, Canada, Ghana, Guatemala, Zambia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Brazil and Kenya.

5. The representative of the International Labour Organization also spoke.

6. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: All China Women's Federation, Women's National Commission of the United Kingdom, NGO Committee on Mental Health, and Asia-Pacific Caucus.

7. The principal elements emerging from the panel discussion were summarized by the moderator of the panel discussion, Ellen Margrethe Loej (Denmark), in document E/CN.6/2001/CRP.4. The text was approved by the Commission for inclusion as an annex to the present report (see annex I), and it was neither negotiated nor adopted by the Commission.

Action taken by the Commission

Draft agreed conclusions on women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

8. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, the representative of Denmark, as facilitator of negotiations on the draft agreed conclusions on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, reported on the informal consultations held on the item.

9. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Chairperson, the Commission agreed to defer consideration of the draft agreed conclusions under agenda item 4 (a) to its resumed session (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/104).

10. Statements were made by the representatives of India, Egypt and the Sudan.

11. At the same meeting, the Chairperson as well as the representative of Denmark, as facilitator, responded to questions raised.

12. At its 18th meeting, on 11 May, the Commission had before it draft agreed conclusions on agenda item 4 (a), submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations (E/CN.6/2001/L.11).

13. At the same meeting, the Chairperson drew the attention of the Commission to an informal paper containing revisions to the text of the draft agreed conclusions.

14. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women made a statement.

15. Following a suspension of the meeting, the representative of Denmark, as facilitator for the negotiations held on the text, reported on the outcome of the consultations.

16. Statements were made by the representatives of Benin, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Netherlands and by the observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

17. The representative of Denmark responded to questions raised.

18. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions contained in document E/CN.6/2001/L.11, as revised, and requested their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV, draft agreed conclusions, sect. A).

B. Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

19. At its 11th meeting, on 13 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (agenda item 4 (b)).

20. Presentations were made by the following experts: Françoise Gaspard, member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Senior Lecturer, École des hautes études en Sciences Sociales (Paris); Philomena Essed, Senior Researcher, Amsterdam Research Institute for Global Issues and Development Studies, University of Amsterdam; Mely G. Tan, Chairperson, Research Institute, Atma Jaya Catholic University, Jakarta; and Pragna Patel of Southall Black Sisters Legal Advice Centre (London).

21. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts in which the following delegations participated: South Africa, Bolivia, Angola, Cuba, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden, Indonesia, France, Ecuador, Switzerland, Dominican Republic, Italy, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Norway, Kenya, Belgium, China, Russian Federation, Benin and Turkey.

22. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: a caucus of African women; and Workshop on Women and Human Rights.

23. The principal elements emerging from the panel discussion were summarized by the moderator of the panel discussion, Ibra Deguène Ka (Senegal), in document E/CN.6/2001/CRP.5. The text was approved by the Commission for inclusion as an annex to the present report (see annex II), and it was neither negotiated nor adopted by the Commission.

Action taken by the Commission

Draft agreed conclusions on gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

24. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Mankeur Ndiaye (Senegal) reported on the outcome of consultations held on agenda item 4 (b) and introduced draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item, which were contained in an informal paper.

25. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Mexico, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions on gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and requested their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV, draft agreed conclusions, sect. B).

Chapter IV

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 9th and 16th meetings, on 12 and 17 March 2001. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions (E/CN.6/2001/10) and a letter dated 4 October 2000 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/11).

2. At its 9th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission held a discussion on the item and heard a statement by the representative of Mexico.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 16th meeting, on 17 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions" (E/CN.6/2001/L.9), which had been submitted by the Chairperson.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/101).

Chapter V

Communications concerning the status of women

1. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its 7th, 8th (closed), 13th (closed), 15th (closed) and 16th meetings on 9, 14, 16 and 17 March 2001. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2001/12);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2001/SW/COMM.LIST/35);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2001/CR.37).

2. The Commission established a working group to consider, under agenda item 6, communications concerning the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Bettina Cadenbach (Germany)
Christine Kapalata (United Republic of Tanzania)
Audra Plepyte (Lithuania)
Mariano Simón Padrós (Argentina)
Yu Wenzhe (China)

3. At its 7th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission held a discussion on the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/CN.6/2001/12 and heard statements by the representatives of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Argentina, the Sudan, China, Mexico, the United States of America and Egypt, and the observers for Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), Canada, Algeria and Australia.

4. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women responded to points raised.

5. At the same meeting, the Chairperson made a statement, following which statements were made by the representatives of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cuba, and the observer for Algeria.

Action taken by the Commission

Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women

6. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to request an additional report from the Secretary-General on the communications procedure of the Commission for consideration at its forty-sixth session (for the text, see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/103).

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

7. At its 13th and 15th meetings (closed meetings), on 14 and 16 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2001/CRP.3).

8. At its 15th meeting, on 16 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group, as revised, and agreed to include it in the report of the Commission. The report of the Working Group is as follows:

"1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, as amended by the Council in resolutions 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950 and 1983/27 of 26 May 1983.

"2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications (E/CN.6/2001/SW/COMM.LIST/35) and the list of non-confidential communications (E/CN.6/2001/CR.37) concerning the status of women.

"3. The Working Group took note of the 14 confidential and 3 non-confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and the 22 confidential communications received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations Office at Geneva concerning the status of women. It also took note of the fact that no confidential communications had been received by other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

"4. The Working Group expressed its deep concern about the continuing grave violations of women's human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and the persistent and pervasive discrimination against women. It also expressed grave concern at the continuing violence against women and girls and their exclusion from full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"5. The Working Group was particularly concerned at discrimination against women in employment and in the enjoyment of the right to health, including reproductive rights. It was also concerned at dowry-related crimes which led to violations of women's rights, including violence and death.

"6. The Working Group was concerned by the systematic use of physical and sexual violence against women, including rape as a weapon of armed conflict, as well as other crimes against women such as torture, beatings, custodial killings, abduction, arbitrary arrests and harassment by military, paramilitary or police forces or other governmental authorities.

"7. The Working Group was concerned by the persistent targeting of civilians, and the fact that internally displaced persons, in particular women and girls, were subject to torture, floggings, rape, confiscation of property, harassment and forcible evictions in conflict situations. The Working Group was also concerned about the failure of authorities to take appropriate action in cases of violations of women's human rights, including sexual abuse.

"8. The Working Group was gravely concerned by trends of contemporary forms of slavery, which included domestic and sexual slavery and trafficking in women and girls for purposes of economic or sexual exploitation.

"9. The Working Group noted with concern the ongoing harassment, including acts of violence, intimidation and death threats, of women human rights defenders by members of the police and other authority figures. The Working Group was also concerned by the lack of investigation by authorities in cases where the safety and freedom of women human rights defenders, women members of non-governmental organizations, women from opposition groups, women activists and journalists had been threatened.

"10. The Working Group was gravely concerned by the alarming number of communications indicating that, in one case, women were not granted even the most basic human rights. Flagrant violations included denial of their civil and political rights, their economic, social and cultural rights, their freedom of movement, their right to work, and their access to education, employment and health care. The Working Group was seriously concerned at brutal attacks, particularly degrading and inhuman punishment which has resulted in death in certain cases, including stoning, and the increase in suicides and severe depression among these women.

"11. The Working Group was concerned at the fact that racial discrimination combined with discrimination on the basis of sex to disadvantage certain groups of women. It noted with deep concern the failure of government authorities who were in a position to do so to protect the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, particularly women and girls, especially, but not only, during times of political instability and in post-conflict situations.

"12. The Working Group noted with concern the continued discrimination against indigenous groups, in particular women and children. It also noted with concern the increasing number of cases of systematic attacks on indigenous communities, including arbitrary killings, detention, torture, rape, forced sterilization and forced disappearances.

"13. The Working Group noted with concern discriminatory provisions against women in national legal systems. It expressed concern that many cases of discrimination against women and violations of women's human rights were not taken seriously by some government officials or were subject to gender-insensitive decisions, thereby prejudicing women's enjoyment of human rights, including access to justice.

"14. In considering the non-confidential communications, the Working Group expressed deep concern at the harmful traditional practice of female genital mutilation. It recognized the urgent need for Governments to implement the relevant international commitments with regard to this practice.

"15. The Working Group took note of the concerns expressed by some Governments in their responses. While acknowledging that the responses submitted by Governments to confidential communications indicated their commitment to the improvement of the status of women, the Working Group recommended further public education campaigns and gender-awareness training for specific sectors directed at the elimination of stereotypic attitudes towards women and girls. It recommended training with respect to the

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the relevant recommendations of the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on the five-year follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and other relevant human rights documents, as well as the Geneva Conventions, for law enforcement, security and military personnel and other government officials."

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered the provisional agenda for its forty-sixth session at its 16th meeting, on 7 March 2001, during its discussion of the proposals for a multi-year programme of work of the Commission for 2002-2006 (draft resolution E/CN.6/2001/L.8), under agenda item 3.

2. For action by the Commission, see chapter II, paras. 54-57.

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session

1. At the 16th meeting, on 17 March 2001, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission with rapporteurial responsibilities, Atsuko Nishimura (Japan), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session (E/CN.6/2001/L.7).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 16 March 2001. At its 16th meeting, on 17 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission also decided to meet in resumed session from 9 to 11 May 2001 (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 45/104). The Commission held a total of 18 meetings (1st to 18th) during the first and the resumed parts of the session.

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the forty-fourth session of the Commission, Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia), who also made a statement.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of 43 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex V to the present report.

C. Election of officers

4. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission at its forty-fourth session were to serve as officers during the forty-fifth session. At the 1st meeting of the forty-fifth session, on 6 March, having been informed that Misako Kaji (Japan) had resigned her post as Vice-Chairperson, the Commission elected Atsuko Nishimura (Japan) as Vice-Chairperson with rapporteurial responsibilities, to replace Ms. Kaji. The Bureau therefore comprised:

Chairperson:

Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Kirsten Geelan (Denmark)
Loreto Leyton (Chile)
Mankeur Ndiaye (Senegal)
Atsuko Nishimura (Japan)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 6 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2001/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

4. Thematic issues:

   (a) Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

   (b) Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Communications concerning the status of women.

7. Provisional agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session.

E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women

6. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed: Bettina Cadenbach (Germany); Christine Kapalata (United Republic of Tanzania); Audra Plepyte (Lithuania); Mariano Simón Padrós (Argentina); and Yu Wenzhe (China). The working group held four meetings.

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

7. Written statements, submitted by non-governmental organizations in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), were circulated in documents E/CN.6/2001/NGO/1-9.

Annex I

Summary submitted by the Moderator of the panel discussion on women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (Ellen Margrethe Loej) (agenda item 4 (a))

1. At its 6th meeting, on 8 March 2001, the Commission held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), one of the thematic issues of the Commission's forty-fifth session. The panellists were Mabel Bianco (Argentina), Expert on Women and HIV/AIDS; Sharifah H. Shahabudin (Malaysia), Professor of Medical Education and Director of the Academic Development Centre on Women, AIDS and Health; Sheila Dinotshe Tlou (Botswana), Associate Professor, Department of Nursing Education, Faculty of Education, University of Botswana; and Elhadj Sy, Representative of the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Liaison Office in New York. The panel was moderated by Ellen Margrethe Loej (Denmark), State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. Many participants stressed that the vulnerability to and impact of HIV/AIDS could not be ameliorated unless the fundamental gender inequalities were addressed by fostering an enabling environment that transformed relationships and promoted true partnerships, respect for human rights and equal opportunities for both women and men. Since women's empowerment was a complex issue, participants stressed that in order to be addressed effectively it required a holistic approach. Gender mainstreaming should be pursued and be put into a context of human rights, survival, safety and all other factors related to human security. Participants also stressed that, since the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women was to mainstream a gender perspective in United Nations policies and programmes, the Commission could provide added value to the preparation process of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS to be held from 25 to 27 June 2001 and to the special session itself by sending to the special session a clear message on the importance of addressing the gender impact of the AIDS epidemic.

3. Participants emphasized the gender dimensions of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. They identified the imbalance of power between women and men, often promoted by cultural, social and religious norms, as being one of the main causes of the spread of HIV/AIDS. Women often did not have the power to decide about their lives, especially as regards sexual relations. In particular, young women and girls were often victims of gender-based violence, including sexual abuse and domestic violence, which besides violating their human rights also significantly exposed them to the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

4. Participants emphasized that violence could be eliminated through formal and informal sexual education for children and adolescents, particularly before they started engaging in sexual relationships, and through programmes which promoted equality and autonomy in sexual relations, mutual respect and protection. It could furthermore be eliminated through the modification of a number of laws which contributed to sexual violence, such as those that did not punish rape inside marriage or condoned a girl's rape if the violator married her. The need to address the issue of the mass media and its role in fuelling gender violence and perpetuating gender stereotyping was also pinpointed. Participants also discussed the need to carefully analyse the complexities of the relations between women and men in order to correct the disfunctionalities of such relationships and thus contribute towards achieving respect for the human rights of women and girls and more equal gender relations.

5. Many participants recognized that HIV/AIDS was a human security issue. The depletion of the skilled workforce, the decline in national food security resulting in malnutrition and starvation and increased illiteracy as children, particularly girls, dropped out of school in order to become breadwinners or care for the sick and dying, jeopardized national development and threatened the security of countries affected by the pandemic. The increase of child orphans, often cared for by elderly grandmothers, was also stressed. The poverty and violent

conflict, political and social instability that could result from HIV/AIDS might have repercussions in other countries too, especially as HIV could easily spread across borders owing to the movement of migrants in search of employment, long-distance drivers, military and militia groups, tourists and traders and traffickers in women, young girls, boys and drugs.

6. Participants stressed that poverty was another factor responsible for the spread of HIV/AIDS, particularly among women, who constituted the majority of the world's poor. Because of poverty, girls were often forced into prostitution and sexual slavery, including in foreign countries, where, being illegal migrants, they were not protected by the law and lacked access to social services. Some participants emphasized that poverty had created an environment of risk to HIV, in particular for women, who tended to take different risks from men, depending, inter alia, on their economic security. Therefore, integrated programmes aimed at eradicating poverty, in particular among women and girls, should be developed.

7. Participants pinpointed the need for working with men in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Until recently, men tended to be considered responsible for the rapid transmission of the virus. Such a stereotypical label did not facilitate male involvement. Many participants brought up successful examples of programmes and projects undertaken in the past few years involving men in the fight against HIV/AIDS, such as working with religious and traditional leaders through the development of programmes based on religious core values, working with men's organizations, such as the Society for Men and AIDS in Africa, or involving men in Latin America in the fight against violence, especially sexual violence. Men should be involved in all national and international activities relating to the prevention, impact alleviation and care of people living with HIV/AIDS. Examples of successful programmes to involve men were also cited by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which had launched the "Men make a difference" campaign, the results of which had been posted on its web site.

8. Participants emphasized that HIV infection among women led to an increase in the violation of women's human rights, such as the right to bodily integrity and access to health services, including for reproductive health. Frequently, even in countries where abortion was not legal, HIV-positive women were forced to have an abortion if pregnant. Compulsory sterilization was another frequent practice imposed on women living with HIV/AIDS.

9. It was pointed out that the stigmatization suffered by HIV-infected women often prevented them from seeking medical assistance. Therefore, the need to combat stigmatization was emphasized. Some participants stressed that language was also responsible for stigmatizing women, and suggested the use of "parent-to-child" transmission rather than "mother-to-child" transmission as a preferred terminology in order not to associate women with the blame related to transmitting HIV to children. That would also help in decreasing women's self-blame for transmitting the diseases to their children. Some stressed the need to include a psychological support component to HIV/AIDS services, programmes and policies.

10. Some participants emphasized that mandatory testing violated human rights. It was also mentioned that in order to be effective testing should be voluntary and accompanied by adequate counselling. Counselling was considered as being a very good opportunity for educating people about HIV/AIDS, particularly for reaching out to men. The need for education on HIV/AIDS was emphasized, including through the use of the new information and communication technologies, which could play an important role in reaching out to young people. However, it was also stressed that education was not sufficient to empower people if access to care was not available to all. For example, if care was connected to mother-to-child transmission and natal care, men, even if aware of the disease, might not be reached by care programmes.

11. Many participants in the panel discussion emphasized the need for access to affordable treatment, including antiretrovirals and prophylaxis of opportunistic infections, particularly for developing countries. Emphasis was placed on the need for concerted action at the international level to lobby for a reduction in the price of drugs. Some participants stressed the need for a more morally acceptable approach than the one based on loans for drugs. Some stressed that accepting loans for drugs would lead to an increase in the already heavy debt burden carried by poor countries. Cooperation with pharmaceutical companies should be envisaged in order to find a balance between an increase in the accessibility to affordable drugs by the poor and the need to allow companies to invest in research for a cure.

12. However, it was also stressed that drugs were not a panacea and had to be complemented by good health services in such a manner that the issue of access to drugs was treated in a broad framework, encompassing both health care and developmental assistance, as well as the formation of effective systems of distribution and basic infrastructure. It was noted that access to reproductive health services for all women, not only for HIV infected women, would enable them to have control of their bodies and make informed choices.

13. Some participants stressed the need to explore the use of alternative therapies, such as traditional medicine, which would be cheaper and more women-friendly. Others stressed the need for developing countries, particularly for African countries, to intensify their own research, including in herbal medicine. A link between gender-sensitive research and the implementation of policies and programmes should be made. The need to respect the human rights of people in the context of research was also stressed.

14. Some participants stated that in many countries, the main form of HIV/AIDS transmission was through substance use, thus emphasizing the need to combat the drug problem. However, others stressed that substance abuse was only one of the entry points for a pandemic which, once inside a community, could be spread through various means. Therefore, the strategy to combat HIV/AIDS should have a multi-pronged approach. The involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in sensitizing community members was considered crucial, although problematic unless the stigmatization associated with HIV/AIDS was eliminated.

15. Participants emphasized the importance of political commitment at the highest level in order to combat HIV/AIDS. The significant role of political leaders was emphasized. It was further stated that the decision makers at the national level should make every effort to provide the necessary financial resources. In fact, while it was recognized that more resources should be allocated to the fight against HIV/AIDS by the donor community, countries affected by HIV/AIDS should also be responsible for mobilizing more resources. Armed conflicts were also seen as a major impediment to the fight against HIV/AIDS due to the high costs involved in the purchase of armaments and increased vulnerability to violence of women and girls. Thus, peace was considered as being a possible contribution to combat HIV/AIDS.

16. It was noted that States should acknowledge that the threat to their security came from both within and across national borders. Concerted action among States, intergovernmental organizations, transnational corporations and civil society was needed as an effective way to maximize the use of resources, coordinate programmes and apply and share knowledge to combat the spread of the disease and alleviate the sufferings of HIV-infected people. Action should be taken at the national, regional and international levels. In particular, the need for action at the regional level was stressed, and it was suggested that Governments establish mechanisms for joint regional plans and collaborate to creatively develop new culturally sensitive programmes and new ways of addressing the pandemic within a human rights framework. United Nations entities, including the World Bank, and other international institutions should review economic and trade policies and practices that resulted in increased unemployment and cuts in social services, and thus made people vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, particularly in developing countries.

Annex II

Summary submitted by the Moderator of the panel discussion on gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Ibra Deguène Ka) (agenda item 4 (b))

1. At its 11th meeting, on 13 March 2001, the Commission held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, one of the thematic issues before the Commission. The panellists were: Françoise Gaspard (France), member on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Senior Lecturer, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris; Pragna Patel (United Kingdom), community-case worker at Southall Black Sisters Legal Advice Centre; Philomena Essed (Netherlands), Senior Researcher, Amsterdam Research Institute for Global Issues and Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, and Visiting Professor, University of California at Irvine; and Mely G. Tan (Indonesia), Chairperson of the Research Institute, Atma Jaya Catholic University, Jakarta, and Lecturer, Graduate School, Institute of Police Sciences of the National Police Force, Jakarta. The panel was moderated by Ibra Deguène Ka (Senegal).

2. Participants in the panel discussion and dialogue indicated that the outcome of the dialogue would provide a contribution to the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held from 31 August to 7 September 2001 at Durban, South Africa. They stressed the crucial importance of taking account of the intersectionality of gender-based and other forms of discrimination, including on the basis of race and other factors, such as age and disability, and the importance of addressing discrimination in multidimensional ways so as to address the discrimination suffered by all. It was pointed out that racism affected women and men differently, and that differences existed among women in their experience of racism. It was emphasized that certain forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia were directed against women because of their gender. Examples included sexual violence against women during armed conflict, in detention and in refugee camps, the forced sterilization of indigenous women and trafficking in women and girls.

3. Participants stressed the need for Governments to make clear that all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination, was against the law through, inter alia, public campaigns and human rights education in schools and for specific sectors, such as law enforcement personnel, as well as in other contexts.

4. It was noted that the situation of migrant women and women and girls who had been trafficked was usually highlighted when the double burden of gender-based and racial discrimination was discussed. The point was made that in parts of the developing world, the majority of the female population experienced racial and ethnic discrimination, and that the situation of indigenous women and girls and those belonging to well-established national and ethnic minorities should also be taken into account. Special consideration and efforts should be made to view these women not as victims but as actors in efforts to combat racism.

5. Gender-based and racial discrimination affected women in various contexts, including in relation to domestic violence, the impact of immigration laws and in the context of the criminal justice system. Multiple disadvantages were created or perpetuated, with women being unable to access the criminal justice system and being subject to discriminatory policing practices, which was sometimes exacerbated by unsettled immigration status and fear of deportation. It was agreed that gender-based differences needed to be acknowledged in the development and formulation of policies and programmes, in particular in relation to the criminal justice system and immigration and asylum laws and policies.

6. Globalization and structural adjustment programmes were considered to have potential negative consequences for women, especially those affected by discrimination on the basis of race, age, disability or other status. These factors could result in poverty, which disproportionally affected marginalized women. Governments were urged to support gender-sensitive

macroeconomic policies, including for rural women, to enhance women's empowerment and economic productivity and to address the link between unequal distribution of wealth and intolerance. Economic crisis and political instability could increase the vulnerability of marginalized and minority women to violence, and it was suggested that it sometimes lowered the likelihood that they would seek redress.

7. It was noted that failing to take account of the specific situation of women within their communities in the formulation of State policies, including to address racial discrimination, could compound the discrimination experienced by marginalized women. It was emphasized that laws and policies, including those aimed at achieving racial equality, should be analysed for their impact on women belonging to minorities and marginalized groups so as to ensure that they did not reinforce existing gender discrimination.

8. Cultural diversity was acknowledged to be an important value, but it was emphasized that violations of the human rights of women and the girl child, in particular harmful traditional and customary practices, could not be justified. The point was made that women might not report these and other abuses for fear of a backlash against their communities.

9. It was important that all women be provided with information about their rights in order to allow them to make informed decisions, including with regard to political participation in decision-making. In particular, migrant and indigenous women needed to be educated about their rights in order that they could be assured access to redress against all forms of discrimination in all spheres of public and private life. Legal and other procedures should also be simplified to ensure wide access to remedies and relief. It was emphasized that women should be seen not only as victims of the intersection of racial and gender discrimination but also as actors in combating racism and racial and other forms of discrimination. Groups of women who were particularly vulnerable to multiple discrimination should be provided with safe spaces or shelters. All efforts to promote racial equality also needed to integrate a clear commitment to gender equality in order to be effective.

10. Policies of multiculturalism had been introduced in a number of countries. While these policies were valuable, they needed to be based on the principle of equality as well as tolerance of diversity, and should take account of the dynamic, heterogeneous nature of minority communities. It was emphasized that such policies and programmes should also reflect the experiences of marginalized women in order to guarantee their full enjoyment of all human rights, with a special focus on their specific needs. It was noted that such programmes have proved to be particularly effective when designed and implemented with the participation of the women concerned, in particular indigenous and other marginalized women. Governments were urged to share information on effective programmes and good practices.

11. It was critical to understand the root causes of racism, including its links to social and economic instability, and to study further the consequences of racism for legal reform and the justice system, in particular with respect to gender-related violence, and the intersectionality of race and gender in approaches to diversity and addressing conflict resolution.

12. Participants recommended the collection of testimonies of women who had suffered from multiple forms of discrimination and the use of these testimonies in the development of concrete strategies and programmes to combat racism and racial and other forms of discrimination.

13. The need to combat racism, including subtle forms of racism and the importance of educating young people, was highlighted for all levels of education, including education for a culture of peace. It was also noted that the Internet had become a tool for disseminating racist material and images, but it was emphasized that the Internet could play an important role in anti-racism campaigns and as a tool to collect testimonies relating to multiple forms of discrimination.

14. Cooperation between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other treaty bodies, particularly the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, was regarded as critical, and further collaboration on the intersection of gender and racial discrimination was encouraged. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women took into account the concluding observations of other treaty bodies when considering State parties' reports, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had adopted a general recommendation on racial and gender

discrimination. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had also adopted a contribution to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

15. Many participants emphasized the important role of non-governmental organizations, in particular women's non-governmental organizations, in assisting women and girls who had experienced multiple forms of discrimination, and in raising awareness and educating against racism. Participants also emphasized the need for support, including adequate funding, for such non-governmental organizations.

16. Participants also emphasized the need to develop analytical tools to expose the intersection of gender and race discrimination and other forms of discrimination, and to develop gender-sensitive policies and programmes to protect and promote the human rights of all women. These methodologies needed to be integrated in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Annex III

Summary of comments by some Member States on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003

1. The Commission considered the draft programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003 (E/CN.6/2001/CRP.2) under agenda item 3 (a).

2. It was noted that the draft programme of work reflected subprogramme 2 (Gender issues and the advancement of women) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the medium-term plan 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1). The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" (General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex) provided the overall framework. The draft programme of work, in particular the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement contained in the narrative should be in line with the guidelines established by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/231 on results-based budgeting.

3. The chief contribution of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women was to support efforts to achieve gender equality, the advancement of women and their full enjoyment of their human rights. It was suggested that this should be stated clearly in the objectives. In the same vein, the Secretariat should enhance the capability of States parties, at their request, to comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its optional protocol, as stated under expected accomplishments, including through operational activities. It should also promote the universal ratification of the Convention and withdrawal of reservations, as stated in the relevant indicator of achievement.

4. The goals and time-bound targets referred to under indicators of achievements were those specified in the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

5. Appreciation for the development of methodologies for gender mainstreaming was expressed. Special efforts should be made to mainstream a gender perspective into the work of the United Nations in poverty eradication, to develop a more coherent system of sex disaggregated statistics and indicators and to reach out to civil society. It was also noted that a gender perspective should be mainstreamed in work programmes and activities decided upon or adopted by intergovernmental forums, entities of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and by Member States.

6. Additional indicators for the first two objectives were suggested, namely an increase in the participation of ministers in the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, improved indicators on the status of women in Member States and the establishment of specific mechanisms for the advancement of women. Additional indicators for the third objective should include an increase in the number of Member States having prepared national plans to promote gender equality and increased coordination with non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Platform of Action.

Annex IV

Comments by some Member States of the Commission on the Status of Women on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005

1. Comments should be obtained on achievements and obstacles in the implementation of previous plans within the United Nations system and in mainstreaming gender in various fields, including institutional capacity-building.

2. A more analytic approach should be used in the plan to identify obstacles in order to translate gender into practical strategies and actions and to ensure more effective monitoring and accountability as regards gender mainstreaming, including the development and use of indicators and identification of good practices.

3. More efforts should be made to ensure that concrete recommendations and actions to address obstacles and constraints identified in the assessment are fully integrated in the new plan so as to improve the effectiveness of activities undertaken by the United Nations system.

4. Further and intensified measures should be taken to ensure that all parts of the United Nations system input into the actions of this plan.

5. The plan should contain information on gender mainstreaming from all United Nations entities that are responsible for the achievement of the objectives of the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Further efforts should be made to include actions from all such entries, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

6. The system-wide medium-term plan should cover the implementation of the institutional and financial arrangements of the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as this would provide for a systemic approach to gender mainstreaming.

7. A more comprehensive approach should be used to integrate relevant decisions of other intergovernmental forums into the system-wide medium-term plan in the framework of an integrated and coordinated conference follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.

8. The plan should further articulate the ways in which the system is working with non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and civil society.

9. In the area of education and training of women, actions should be identified with respect to literacy. Further efforts should be made to avoid duplication and to provide for improved coordination, and for the exchange of information with regard to lessons learned.

10. The wording "pregnant girls" as used in paragraph 97 of the system-wide medium-term plan (E/CN.6/2001/4) should be replaced by "pregnant adolescents".

11. In the area of women and health, information on efforts to reduce maternal mortality should be included.

12. In the area of violence against women, in particular trafficking in women, information from the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention should be included.

13. In paragraph 116, a more comprehensive list on violence against women, which includes all forms of violence as reflected in the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, should be provided.

14. In the area of women and armed conflict, given the prevalence of gender-based violence in refugee camps, more information on actions to be taken by UNHCR should be reflected, including evaluation of its guidelines on the protection of refugee women. Also, activities being undertaken with respect to internally displaced women and girls should be included.

15. As regards the girl child in the areas of armed conflict and refugees, the Office of the Special Adviser on Children and Armed Conflict and other relevant United Nations entities dealing with children should be encouraged to provide information.

16. Reporting by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on activities relating specifically to the protection of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict should be promoted.

17. In the area of women and the economy, more information on action to be taken to secure land rights for women should be included.

18. In the area of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, national machineries should be continuously strengthened through gender training and support from the women's movement.

19. In the area of human rights of women, more information on action taken regarding legal literacy should be included.

20. Public awareness programmes about the human rights of women should focus on principles as contained in relevant consensus documents rather than the vague notion of "violations that continue to persist" as indicated in paragraph 168.

21. The wording "equal inheritance" (para. 169) is not used in the Platform for Action and should not be used in the system-wide medium-term plan.

22. In paragraph 171, the list of discriminatory practices should be deleted or a complete list from relevant agreed documents be adopted.

23. In the area of women and the media, a balanced allocation of programmes should be reached.

24. In the area of women and the environment, more information should be included from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which plays a critical role in this area as it relates to the development of programmes and infrastructures that are gender-sensitive in responding to disasters and emergency situations.

25. In the reference to secure tenure campaign in paragraph 169, the focus should be on changing negative stereotypes rather than "values".

26. Operational activities and advisory services of the United Nations entities should be designed in consultation with and delivered at the request of Member States.

27. The activities of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention described under paragraph 90 should be included under the critical area of concern, Women and health, specifically after paragraph 103.

28. The Spanish translation should be reviewed to ensure correct usage of certain terms.

29. UNIFEM should be encouraged to pay more attention to the development aspects in the programmed activities related to the use of new information and communication technologies.

30. Since the ratification of certain international instruments is the prerogative of Member States, this should be reflected in paragraph 120.

31. The titles in reference to the multi-year programme of the Commission on the Status of Women should be revised in accordance with the programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women as adopted at its forty-fifth session.

32. The proposed system-wide medium-term plan gives special attention to the importance of development of indicators, databases and statistics, in the work of the organizations of the United Nations. These should not restrict Member States from developing other relevant country-specific indicators and measurement tools.

Annex V

Attendance

Members*

Argentina	Arnoldo Listre, Lila Subiran deViana, Mariano Simon Padros, Alejandra Martha Ayuso, Ricardo José Zuberbuhler
Azerbaijan	Zohra Guliyeva, Eldar Kouliev, Mominat Omarova, Lala Ibrahimova
Belgium	André Adam, Stéphane De Loecker, François Vandamme, Michel Goffin
Benin	
Bolivia	Jamila Moraveck de Cerruto, Martha Beatriz López de Mitre, Viviana Limpias Chávez, Peggy Maldonado Riss
Brazil	Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Fernando Estrellita Lins de Salvo Coimbra, Carla Rosane Zorio Chelotti
Burundi	Françoise Magunira
Chile	Gabriel Valdés, Cristián Maquieira, Eduardo Tapia, Loreto Leyton, Gladys Zalaquett
China	Shen Guofang, Zou Xiaoqiao, Yu Wenzhe, Sophie Leung Lau Yau-fun, Sally Wong Pik-yee, Wong Cheuk Ming, Huang Shu, Sun Changqing, Zhang Lei, Zhang Caixia
Côte d'Ivoire	Nathalie Victoire Adom, Noël-Emmanuel Ahipeaud Guebo, Eric Camille N'Dry, Ramata Sangare
Croatia	Željka Antunović, Ivan Šimonović, Jelena Grčić Polić, Dubravka Šimonović, Katarina Ivanković-Knežić, Tania Valerie Raguž
Cuba	Rafael Dausá Céspedes, Magalys Arocha Domínguez, Mercedes de Armas García, Margarita Valle Camino, Rita María Pereira, Ana Milagros Martínez Rielo
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Li Hyong Chol, Jang Il Hun, Mun Jong Chol
Denmark	Ellen Margrethe Løj, Kirsten Geelan, Ulla Lehmann Nielsen, Henrik B. Hahn, Anders Karlsen, Vibeke Abel, Trine Lund Pedersen, Brigitte Husmark
Dominican Republic	Yadira Henríquez de Sánchez Baret, Nurys Abreu, Julia Tavares de Alvarez, María de Jesús Díaz, Isabel Cristina Rodríguez González, Milagos Martínez, Yolanda Díaz, Rosa Marianela, Bernarda Rodríguez, Obdulia Guzmán, Carmen Julia Gómez, Rosa Marianela García de Zorilla

* Saint Lucia and Uganda were not represented at the session.

Egypt	Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Shadia Farrag, Roda Bebars, Yehia Oda
Germany	Dieter Kastrup, Marion Thielenhaus, Bettina Cadenbach, Gabriele Pörksen, Joachim Holzenberger, Sieglinde Reis, Brigit Dederichs-Bain, Carola Schwersmann
Guinea	
India	Kamalesh Sharma, Satyabrata Pal, Asith Kumar Bhattacharjee
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mohammad Hasan Fadaifard, Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi, Mostafa Alaei, Mohammad Reza Nezamdoust, Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour, Farideh Hassani, Forouzandeh Vadiati
Italy	Sergio Vento, Pier Benedetto Francese, Maria Angela Zappia, Chiara Ingrao, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, Vittoria Tola, Cristiana Scoppa, Pia Locatelli, Anna Clemente, Tosca Barucco, Bianca Maria Pomeranzi, Marina Porro, Maria Angela Giorni Cittadini, Marisa Martori
Japan	Yoriko Meguro, Michiyo Uesugi, Atsuko Nishimura, Toshie Kobayashi, Atsuko Suzuki, Mari Yamada, Yuko Suzuki, Akiko Yoshimoto, Yoshiko Nino, Yoko Onaga, Masako Sato, Toru Morikawa, Yuki Sakai, Kae Ishikawa
Kyrgyzstan	Elmira Ibraimova, Sagyn Ismailova, Zamira Tohtohodjaeva
Lesotho	
Lithuania	Gediminas Šerkšnys, Audra Plepyte, Tomas Bliznikas, Vaida Miklovaite
Malawi	
Malaysia	Norasmah Samsudin, Sharifah Zarah Syed Ahmad, Norlin Othman, S. Siva Kumar, Sharifah Hapsah Dato' Shahabudin
Mexico	Jorge Eduardo Navarrete, Luis Javier Campuzano, Elia Sosa
Mongolia	
Netherlands	Flora J. van Houwelingen, Gabrielle Bekman, Hein van der Hoeven, Marisia J. A. Pechaczek, Paul J. A. M. Peters, Bea M. ten Tusscher, Alexandra P. Valkenburg, V. Leander-Daflaar, O. Croes, A. de Cuba
Pakistan	Roshan Khursheed Bharucha, Shamshad Ahmad, Masood Khalid, Eshtiaq H. Andrabi
Peru	Jorge Valdez, Manuel Picasso, Alfredo Chuquihuara, Carmen Rosa Arias
Republic of Korea	Han Myung-sook, Lee Ho-jin, Park Woo-keon, Lim Jae-hong, Nam Seung-hee, Suh Myung-sun, Park Sung-ja, Kim Hyo-eun Jenny, Chung Eui-hye, Mun Kwon-jum, Huh Young-suk, Jo Seong-eun, Park Jin-kyoung, Choi Young-hee, Lee Yun-sook, Kim Jung-sook, Kim Bang-rim, Eun Bang-hee, Ji Eun-hee, Han Ji-hyun, Kim Young-hee, Kang Hyeon-hee, Byun Wha-soon

Russian Federation	G. N. Karelova, V. A. Lekaryeva, A. B. Gusev, V. A. Vertogradov, A. A. Rogov, D. V. Knyazhinskii, K. M. Barskii, G. P. Komusov, V. N. Krisov
Rwanda	
Saint Lucia	
Senegal	Ibra Deguène Ka, Alioiune Diagne, Mankeur Ndiaye, Georger Tiati Dione
Sri Lanka	John de Saram, Dharshana Perera, Mahishini Colonne
Sudan	Elfatih Erwa, Mubarak Rahmtalla, Iham Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed, Tarig Ali Bakhit
Tunisia	Zohra Ben Romdhane, Boutheina Gribaa, Ali Cherif
Turkey	Nevin Şenol, Ayşe Akin, Hakan Tekin
Uganda	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Susan Atkins, Sue Lewis, Julie Ashdown, Mark Pethick, Melanie Allison, Jennifer Douglas, Ian Todd, Christine Crawley, Janet Veitch, Sue Blackwell, Mark Runacres, Pat Holden, Jolyon Welsh, Matthew Johnson, Joe Ritchie, Gill Porter
United Republic of Tanzania	Shamin P. Khan, Daudi N. Mwakawago, Mary I. Mushi, Omar D. Shajak, Tuli Kassimoto, Nesta Sekwao, Christine Kapalata, Iman Aboud
United States of America	Betty King, John Davison, Mirta Alvarez, Katherine Blakeslee, Christopher Camponovo, Suzanne Petroni, Margaret Pollack, Avraham Rabby, Claudia Serwer, Sarah Swift, Melanie Khanna, Ruth Wagoner

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Non-Member States represented by observers

Holy See, Switzerland

Entities maintaining a permanent observer mission to the United Nations

Palestine

United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Fund for Agricultural Development

Intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

Caribbean Community, Commonwealth Secretariat, Council of Europe, European Community, International Organization for Migration, Organization of African Unity, Organization of the Islamic Conference

Other entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Non-governmental organizations

A large number of non-governmental organizations that either are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or had been accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women also attended the session

Annex VI

List of documents before the Commission at its forty-fifth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2001/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.6/2001/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
E/CN.6/2001/2/Add.1	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan
E/CN.4/2001/70-E/CN.6/2001/3	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General containing a joint work plan of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
E/CN.6/2001/4	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women 2002-2005
E/CN.6/2001/5	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat
E/CN.4/2001/126-E/CN.6/2001/6	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women
E/CN.6/2001/7 and Corr.1	3 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for a multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2001/8	3 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2001/9	4	Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2001/10	5	Note by the Secretariat on the follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2001/11	5	Letter dated 4 October 2000 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2001/12	6	Report of the Secretary-General assessing the implications of the reforms of mechanisms in the human rights area (1503 procedure) for communications concerning the status of women
E/CN.6/2001/13	3 (a)	Note by the Secretariat on the contribution of the United Nations Volunteers programme
E/CN.6/2001/CRP.1	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
E/CN.6/2001/CRP.2	3 (a)	Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003
E/CN.6/2001/CRP.3	6	Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2001/CRP.4	4 (a)	Summary submitted by the Moderator of the panel discussion on women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (Ellen Margrethe Loej)
E/CN.6/2001/CRP.5	4 (b)	Summary submitted by the Moderator of the panel discussion on gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Ibra Deguène Ka)
E/CN.6/2001/L.1	2	Note by the Secretary-General on the status of documentation for the session
E/CN.6/2001/L.2/Rev.1	3 (a)	Revised draft resolution entitled "The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2001/L.3	3	Draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts", submitted by Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Suriname, Tajikistan and Turkey
E/CN.6/2001/L.4	3	Draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)", submitted by Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia
E/CN.6/2001/L.5/Rev.1	3 (a)	Revised draft resolution entitled "Discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan", submitted by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay
E/CN.6/2001/L.6	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system", submitted by Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Nauru, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu
E/CN.6/2001/L.7	8	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-fifth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2001/L.8	3 (c)	Draft resolution entitled "Multi-year programme of work for the Commission for 2002-2006", submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Loreto Leyton (Chile)
E/CN.6/2001/L.9	5	Draft decision entitled "Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions", submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission
E/CN.6/2001/L.10/Rev.1	3 (a)	Revised draft decision entitled "Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2002-2003", submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.6/2001/L.11	4 (a)	Draft agreed conclusions entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)", submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.6/2001/L.12	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Comments on the proposed system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 2002-2005", submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations
E/CN.6/2001/SW/COMM.LIST/35	6	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women
E/CN.6/2001/CR.37	6	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/1	3	Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, Soroptimist International, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the All India

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
		Women's Conference, the Associated Country Women of the World, the Baha'i International Community, the International Federation of University Women, the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, the United States Committee for UNIFEM and the World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and the Armenian International Women's Association, International Special Dietary Foods Industries, the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the World Union for Progressive Judaism, non-governmental organizations on the Roster
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/2	4 (a)	Statement submitted by the American Association of Retired Persons, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/3	4 (b)	Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/4	4 (b)	Statement submitted by Legiao da Boa Vontade (Legion of Good Will), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/5	4	Statement submitted by the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/6	4 (b)	Statement submitted by the World Veterans Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/7	4 (b)	Statement submitted by the Baha'i International Community, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/8	3 (a)	Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers and the International Federation of Women Lawyers, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Council
E/CN.6/2001/NGO/9	4	Statement submitted by the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Alliance of Women, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and Soroptimist International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, the Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, the European Women's Lobby, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Federation for Home Economics, the International Federation of University Women, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, the Women's International Zionist Organization, the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and the European Union of Women and International Inner Wheel, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

01-39503 (E) 140701